

JANUARY 2022

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HERITAGE

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COVER 1982

INSIDER
**ARMIE
HAMMER**
ON BEING LONG
RANGER

**SORRY
NOT
SORRY**

MEN
APOLOGIZE IN
WEINSTEIN'S
WAKE

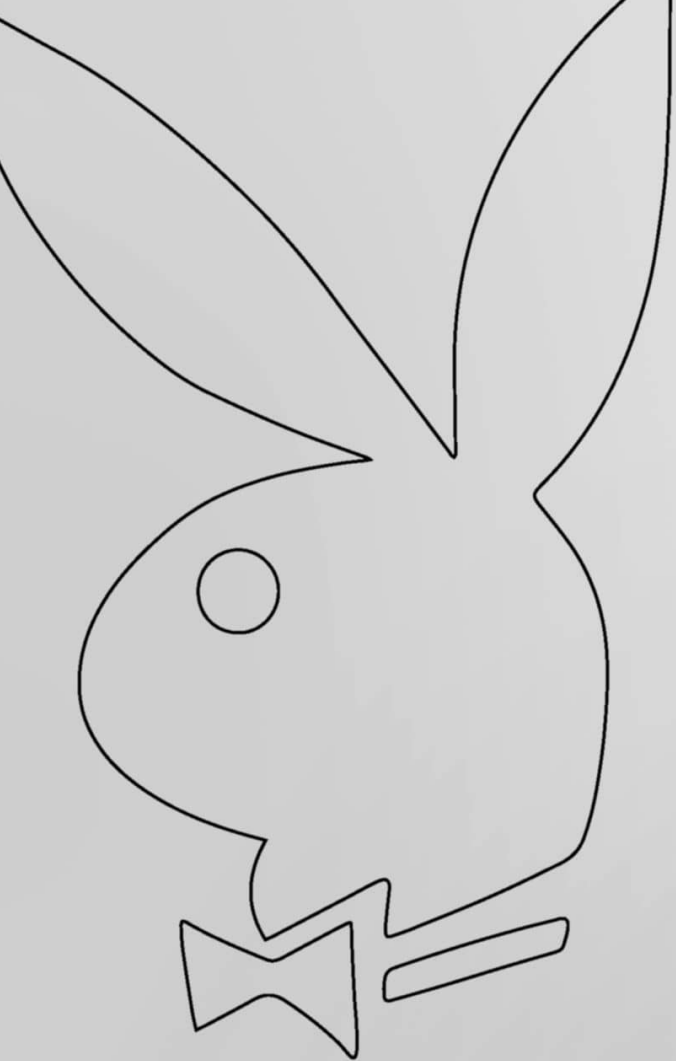
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Armie Hammer

The new Lone Ranger talks Big Macs and Vespas and tells how to tie anyone—including his wife—in knots

BY BRANTLEY BARDIN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORENZO AGIUS

Q1: You're playing the lead in The Lone Ranger, which debuted 80 years ago, on radio. You're 26. Were you even aware of the character when you were a kid?

HAMMER: My dad called me kemo sabe when I was a kid. I also remember hearing Lone Ranger jokes, including one that goes like this: The Lone Ranger and Tonto are riding through the desert, going over dune after dune and getting a little lost. They go over one last dune and all of a sudden there are Indian braves all around the top, completely circling them. The Lone Ranger panics, looks at Tonto and says, "Tonto, we're surrounded! What do we do?" Tonto goes, "What do you mean by 'we,' white man?" and runs away.

Q2: Let's talk Johnny Depp. He plays Tonto, and his interpretation of the role is reportedly entirely different from the 1950s television incarnation.

HAMMER: In the old TV series, Tonto was really just the Lone Ranger's slave. The Lone Ranger would say, "Tonto, go tell people this or that," and Tonto would say, "Me do." In our movie Tonto is a Comanche who considers himself one of the last spirit warriors, and the Lone Ranger is at first a district attorney who has this Lockean idea of bringing about justice in the West with discussions, not guns. But then he's ambushed and shot. Tonto nurses him back to health and explains that maybe the world doesn't work quite the way he thinks it does. What's funny and part of the rub between Tonto and the Lone Ranger in our movie is that even though my character is educated and believes people should treat one another justly, he still looks at Tonto as if to say, "Oh, pay him no mind; he's just an Indian." But then you see Tonto be like, "You have no idea what you're talking about," and sure as shit, Tonto's right.

Q3: We heard Depp placed a scorpion in his mouth during the shoot. Is that true?

HAMMER: That was recreational on his part, and I still don't understand it. We had these scorpion handlers on set for this freak-show kind of scene. Now, these scorpions were so massive that you'd barely be able to fit one in a cereal bowl. After the scene, we went to check out the dudes who handle them, and one of the handlers just opened his mouth and one of the scorpions crawled out. I was like, "Okay, I'm good!" and walked the hell away. But Johnny said, "I want to try that!" and just shoved it into his mouth. He's a total character—a bohemian and an artist in the truest sense.

Q4: Did you find putting on the Lone Ranger mask addictive while you were

filming? It was such a narcotic to Clayton Moore, the 1950s TV actor who played him, that after the show ended he fought lawsuits that attempted to deny him the right to wear it for personal appearances.

HAMMER: Let's just say I kept one. *[chuckles]* And that my wife loves it.

Q5: You're a guy who has gone on record saying he's obsessed with tying knots and who often carries a rope and a knot guide with him wherever he goes. Now we're hearing about a mask. Is there anything we need to know about your sex life?

HAMMER: Well, if you're married to a feminist [journalist, restaurateur and actress Elizabeth Chambers] as I am, then it's.... I don't know how much we can put here without my parents being embarrassed, but I used to like to be a dominant lover. I liked the grabbing of the neck and the hair and all that. But then you get married and your sexual appetites change. And I mean that for the better—it's not like I'm suffering in any way. But you can't really pull your wife's hair. It gets to a point where you say, "I respect you too much to do these things that I kind of want to do."

Q6: And how does she respond?

HAMMER: The two of us will literally break out laughing in the middle of it, finish up and be like, "Well, that was oddly fun!" So it becomes a new kind of thing that's less about "I want to dominate you" and more about both of us having a really good time. It's just a different style.

Q7: Where does your obsession with tying knots come from?

HAMMER: Maybe it's a man's version of knitting. It's fascinating because you can pick up a piece of rope and know that if you do this, then this, then A, B, C, you'll get X every time. There are no variables in rope tying. It's all logic, and it's incredibly useful.

Q8: Should we assume those rumors about you playing the lead in the movie version of Fifty Shades of Grey are all false?

HAMMER: No one actually offered me the movie, but while I was working on Lone Ranger my agent brought it up, and I said "Nope." I mean, come on—it's just mommy porn. I'm not going to sit on top of the laundry machine in spin cycle reading about putting a ball gag in someone's mouth. That doesn't do it for me.

Q9: You became famous playing the super-rich, super-entitled Winklevoss twins in The Social Network, the movie about the birth of Facebook. One of your great-grandfathers was Armand Hammer, the illustrious oil baron, philanthropist and art collector. How did you not become a Winklevii type?

HAMMER: My mom made sure I went to regular schools and not the ones parents send their kids to in L.A. to train them to become douchebags. The whole time my brothers and I were growing up, her thing was, "You're no different or more special than anybody else."

Q10: What do you remember about your great-grandfather?

HAMMER: He had a plane, and I remember running up and down its aisle. He was a really eclectic, funny dude. On his plane he'd have a giant bowl of caviar, a giant bowl of lobster and then a humongous bowl of Kentucky Fried Chicken. And he could give a shit about the caviar or the lobster; he wanted to eat that fried chicken. That was his happy place. I think that's probably where I get my love for McDonald's.

Q11: You love the yellow arches?

HAMMER: I have the most guilty, abusive relationship with McDonald's. Left to my own devices I'd probably eat four Big Macs a



"I used to like to be a dominant lover. I liked the grabbing of the neck and the hair and all that."

week. My wife, Elizabeth, says, "You can't fill your body with that crap—they put eyeballs in it!" And I go, "Sounds good!"

Q12: You own a restaurant, Bird Bakery, with your wife in her hometown of San Antonio. How do you keep yourself in shape when it's time to film?

HAMMER: For a male actor the trick is to enjoy life so you know you're always about two weeks away from being "beach ready." I mean, do you know how often those people have to think, What if I eat? It's a lot, and I don't want to think about myself as often as it is necessary to think about yourself in order to keep a six-pack all the time. I'd rather enjoy meals, order bottles of red wine and eat crème brûlée at the end of dinner. Then when they call you for a photo shoot, you just go, "Okay, time to hit the treadmill."

Q13: Lately horse meat has been finding its way into foreign hamburgers—

HAMMER: Which will make me a stallion, so I'll take it! You know,



"My wife and I were supposed to go skeet shooting on our first date, but it started to rain so we ended up going to a bunch of art galleries and then a porno store instead."

in places like France eating horse is totally acceptable. Elizabeth says, "You cannot say that—you're the Lone Ranger!" [laughs] But horse meat is apparently delicious and nutritious. It's funny: When we were eating at a burger joint with the cowboys in Lone Ranger, I point-blank asked, "Did you ever eat a horse?" And every one of them said, "Oh hell yeah, man—that's good eatin'!"

Q14: What else did the cowboys teach you?

HAMMER: When we showed up at cowboy camp they said, "Here's your saddle and your bedroll." I said, "Seems kind of thin for a bedroll." The guy got in my face and screamed, "You're a fuckin' ranger, man! You lay down and cover up your ass. Are we clear?"

Q15: So it was a rough shoot?

HAMMER: They beat the shit out of us, dude. We filmed in Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, among other places, and when we started it was cold enough to get shut down by blizzards. Then there were windstorms, then sandstorms, then electrical storms. In New Mexico they laid five miles of train track so we'd have our own rail to shoot on, and Johnny and I spent weeks just running on top of trains. One day it got to 120 degrees, and I was wearing this wool suit, leather gloves, leather mask and hat for 14 hours of daylight. I got so skinny they had to put new holes in my belts.

Q16: Give us an example of young Armie as a middle schooler.

HAMMER: I almost got kicked out of eighth grade for selling Playboy. Me and this guy had a ring where we'd bring magazines packaged with a bottle of lotion to school—brilliant business plan, wasn't it?—and sell them to the kids for R380.00. Then I got called into a teacher's office. He said, "I've heard you're bringing in these nudie magazines." I said, "Nope, not me." He went, "So you wouldn't mind if we checked your locker?" Which he then went and did. We'd stashed the actual magazines in bushes by the school, but there was a ton of lotion in the locker. All he could say was, "Why do you have so much lotion?" I said, "I get dry hands." [laughs] They couldn't prove I was selling the magazines, so I got away with it. Fun!

Q17: You're six-foot-five, yet you drove up for this interview on a Vespa. What's a king-size dude doing on such a pint-size bike?

HAMMER: The usual joke is that I'm compensating for my huge penis. We'll skip that one, though, and say it's for ease of commute. I'm obsessed with Vespas—there's just no faster way to get around Los Angeles.

Q18: You and your wife once bought each other guns for Christmas. Are you a big gun lover?

HAMMER: I wouldn't necessarily say I'm a gun lover—I'm a gun appreciator. I appreciate their function, the way they've evolved and the mechanics of them. I'm not sure I think anybody should be able to just walk into a gun store and walk out with a gun, but statistically, if you look at places where people are the most armed, there's less crime. I'm by no means advocating a completely armed society, but at the same time, I appreciate the recreation of guns. Going out and skeet shooting can be a fun, adrenalized time. My wife and I were supposed to go skeet shooting on our first date, but it started to rain so we ended up going to a bunch of art galleries and then a porno store instead.

Q19: In 2011's J. Edgar, directed by Clint Eastwood, you play Clyde Tolson, the associate director of the FBI, opposite Leonardo DiCaprio's J. Edgar Hoover. No one knows for certain, but the two were so inseparable that many assumed they were lovers. The movie hints that the answer is yes. Where do you stand?

HAMMER: On set I'd always say, "Clint, what do you think? Did they ever bang?" And he'd go [in a heavy Eastwood whisper], "I don't know. I don't think so." Then I'd ask Leo, "So what do you think? Did they ever do it?" And he'd go [takes a deep breath], "I don't know... maybe." But I was like, "Oh yeah, they did it for sure!" That was my standpoint, 100 percent. Like maybe one night they had a few too many martinis and all of a sudden [mimes passing out and waking up], "Oh! What did we just do? Oh my God, that felt so good! And so bad! I hate you, I love you, get away from me, get over here!" One of those things, you know?

Q20: Where do you stand on marriage equality?

HAMMER: I don't think anybody should be telling anybody else who they should marry or not marry. That's my official standpoint. This is social evolution, and the thing with evolution, whether you look at it in terms of a plant or a species or a mind-set, is it will always take time. But you just want to say, "The debate's over, folks. Get used to it."



Casca Akashova

Photography by [Arthur St. John](#) | [@arthurstjohn](#)





Congrats on your International Playboy feature! What does this mean to you? I am honored and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of Playboy. I have always admired this brand and wanted to be a part of it . I have vintage playboys in my home and I absolutely cherish them. So, it's truly wonderful to be able to say that I am now a part of this.

What do you think of when it comes to Playboy and the iconic bunny? Tradition, Icon, Lifestyle, entertainment... From It's inception in 1953 to current day, it's name is synonymous with legend and icon that have become So well renowned that there isn't anywhere or anyone that does not know the infamous Playboy bunny. That is inspirational.

Where were you born? Russia Where do you live now? I reside on the East Coast of the US.

Besides English, do you speak any other languages? Yes, when I was little, I spoke way more including Russian, Italian, Spanish, and English.

Favorite color? Blue, violet, Red.

Favorite movie of all time? I have a list.. lol Some off the top of my head Casablanca, Full Metal Jacket, Gran Torino, The Tourist, James Bond films (older ones), John Wick, Total Recall (original), Demolition Man, Jack Reacher, Godfather, Minority Report, Edge of Tomorrow, Beserk, Black Lagoon, Meteor Garden, Ashes of Love, Castlevania, High-Rise Invasion, 365 DNI... to give you an idea ...

Favorite actor? I don't have favorite actors per say, but some make more movies that I enjoy like Henry Cavill, Tom Cruise, but it's more based on type of movie and they happen to be in it.. However, I appreciate their craft.

Beach or pool? Both and lake. I love water including a bathtub. If anyone knows me..

Read the book or watch the movie? I am currently reading two books and I am constantly reading manwha and manga. The books I am reading are Witcher series and the Wheel of Time. (And yes, watching the Witcher series and started the Wheel of Time)

What attracts you the most in a man? Stability: Mental, emotional, and financial ... and strength of character..

Biggest turn-on? Etiquette/manners, stability, taking care of yourself, and treating others with

respect while also having a back bone, sense of humor, good taste in food and drinks, and an appreciation for certain things in life because life is indeed short.

Turn-off? Lack of etiquette/manners, irresponsibility, lack taking care of themselves, disrespectful, and lack of humor, weak minded, lack of kindness, lack of intelligence and situational awareness, or low emotional IQ.

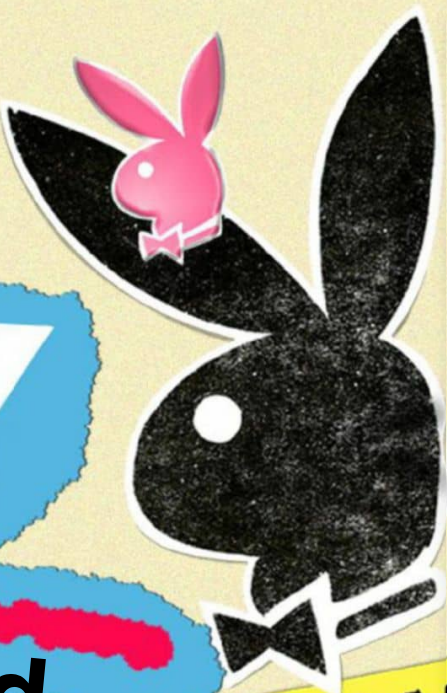
Describe your perfect date. Someone who actually asks me what I'd like to do and listens.

Describe yourself using 3 adjectives. Feminine, witty, and motivated





THE
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LOCKDOWN
LOVE

The Pandemic Killed
My Sex Life

MASKED
SEX



ANTIDEPRESSANT

MEDS

ZOOM
PARTIES

6
YEARS
OF THE
PLAYBOY
ADVISON

2020

DATING
APPS

LOW BATTERY

LIBIDO

Playboy's sex editor drops some wisdom on how to live, love and lust again as we inch toward the end of a global crisis

Q: My partner and I have been working from home since last April. We have a solid long-term relationship, and our chemistry has always been off the charts. At the beginning of quarantine our libidos jumped significantly, and we took advantage of the extra time together to explore more about ourselves sexually. However, as the pandemic and its stressors dragged on, this excitement tapered off. We are now having less sex than we did before Covid-19 was a thing. It's reached the point where we go up to two weeks without either of us feeling motivated to be intimate. Is this bad, and how do I fix it? —J.S., Orange, California

A: The initial mistake here is assuming something is broken and needs fixing. Our sex lives are not linear. It's natural for sexual interest and activity to ebb and flow; a lull doesn't necessarily mean your relationship is on its deathbed. We are collectively living through a major trauma, regardless of whether you are on the front lines as an essential worker, working from your couch or not working at all. If your situation is otherwise comfortable—still employed, quarantined with a loving partner and (hopefully) healthy—it may be tough to recognize this trauma and how it manifests. Just like we put our phones on low-power mode to save battery until we can recharge, it's likely that our libido goes on lockdown to save our energy for a crisis. Simply put, it can be hard to feel present and receptive to pleasure during difficult times.

To assess the health of your sex life, ask yourself: Are you and your partner supportive of each other? Do you communicate well? Do you prioritize each other's needs in and out of the bedroom? If the answer to all these questions is yes, then you're in good shape. Don't worry about a dry spell. Sex is just one part of a successful relationship, and an overemphasis on it can cause you to lose sight of the bigger picture. A healthy sex life

Pleasure is not
a monolith; it
looks different
for every couple.

doesn't necessarily mean frequent sex—that's a lesson that will serve you well both during and after the pandemic.

Q: In early 2020, I came out as queer at the "ripe" age of 46. As a late bloomer fresh to the scene, going to gay bars and clubs quickly became my main outlet to engage with LGBT culture, make new friends and find dates. Right as I began to feel as though I belonged somewhere, my city went on lockdown. Since then, all my party spots have basically been shut down. The isolation has been killing me, and I feel like the pandemic has robbed me of the first year of my life where I was able to be my authentic self. How can I work through this? —L.L., Evanston, Illinois

First off, congrats on coming out! That's a huge achievement and takes so much courage. As someone who came out later in life, you may feel you need to make up for lost time and experience everything all at once. Gay bars and clubs are a key part of the LGBT community, beloved sanctuaries filled with go-go dancers, thumping pop music and R325.00 vodka sodas. When you're navigating a world that's hostile to your truth, the gay bar is a refuge, a church. Having grown up in churches of the more traditional variety, I was taught this fitting wisdom: The church isn't the building, it's the people. Queer culture isn't only the dance floor or happy hour or drag night, although those things are beautiful facets of it. Queer culture is queer people. Your sexual identity is not synonymous with how hard you're able to party. It's possible to live a fulfilled life as a queer person without a fast-paced nightlife; plenty made that choice before the pandemic, whether they were giving sobriety a shot or suffered from social anxiety or just didn't care for the scene.

The people you connected with early last year haven't vanished just because you can't see them in person. Light up the group text. Attend Zoom parties. Chat with cuties on dating apps. Have a masked-up, social-distanced hangout at the park. Start a queer virtual book or film club. There are many creative ways to quench your thirst for interaction until the pandemic ends and we're all able to properly rage again. You may find the relationships you've nourished and maintained from afar are deeper and all the more worthwhile for it.

Q: One of my resolutions for 2021 is to be more confident about giving head to my boyfriend. But I have TMJ, which at worst results in jaw pain after going down on him for a few minutes and at best results in a distracting jaw-clicking sound that kills the mood. I feel alone in this problem, like it's too bizarre to ask my friends about. Are there any solutions for this? —T.A., Phoenix, Arizona

A: First of all, no sexual problem is "too bizarre" to talk about. Once you open up, you might discover you aren't alone in your experiences after all, and that other people have their own sexual issues they're battling.

I understand the desire to bring your partner pleasure, but anything that causes you physical pain simply isn't worth it. Prioritize your own well-being. If your lover is a decent dude who seeks a true partnership with you, then he should understand and accept that. Pleasure is not a monolith; it looks different for every couple. And for you two, maybe pleasure doesn't include blow jobs—but it can include many other acts that bring connection and intimacy. There's



The statistical truth is that most women don't orgasm from penetration alone, which opens up the menu for other meaningful activities you can both explore.

no "correct" way to please your partner, so don't compare yourself to what others may be doing. Perspective is really important here.

I don't know the severity of your TMJ, but I encourage you to experiment with other blow-job techniques that might be pain-free: Move extra slowly, try different positions that relieve pressure on your jaw (for example, keep your head still as he does all the work of moving) or alternate between using your mouth and a suction toy that mimics fellatio (like this one or this one). It might also be a good idea to chat with your doctor or whoever diagnosed you with TMJ to see what work-arounds might exist.

Whichever path you take to deal with this, communication and care are paramount. If your relationship doesn't have those key elements, whatever you're able to do or not do in the bedroom ultimately won't matter—regardless of resolutions.

Q: I started taking antidepressants in the fall. As a side effect, it's been difficult for me to stay hard as long as I used to. My wife has been super understanding and nonchalant, but I still feel inadequate that I'm not able to give her the type of sex she's come to expect. Do you have any advice? —P.W., Newark, New Jersey

A: I can't tell whether your goal is to sustain erections longer or to find alternative ways to satisfy your partner, so I'll address both! The past year brought on or exacerbated mental health challenges for

many people, so it's great that you're prioritizing your well-being by going on medication. It sucks that this important step toward getting better comes with a side effect that impedes your bedroom life.

As we've shown at Playboy, there are countless avenues to pleasure that don't involve or rely on penetration. I might go as far as to say that always focusing on penis-centric sex leads to repetitive, unimaginative sex. Although penetration can feel great, the statistical truth is that most women don't orgasm from penetration alone, which opens up the menu for other meaningful activities you can both explore. Oral sex, manual stimulation, dildos, vibrators, sensual massages, dirty talk, sexy shower time, role play and erotica consumption are just a few ways you both can experience pleasure without an erect penis. Your penis can be erect, flaccid or at half-mast, and it would be neither a measure of your desire for your partner nor your ability to satisfy her.

As for maintaining erections for longer once you have them, a mix of lifestyle changes along with medication or sex aids can help. Eliminate stressors, get a full night's sleep and exercise regularly—stress can worsen erectile problems, as can a lack of sleep or exercise. Limiting alcohol and nicotine consumption also can boost your sexual performance and improve your overall health. And lidocaine sprays or benzocaine wipes, which desensitize the penis, can be a godsend in helping erections last longer.

Finally, let your doctor know what's going on. Perhaps there are other medical issues at play. It's also possible that a lower dose may be in order, or a switch to a different medication that is less likely to have sexual side effects. Talking to your doctor is key here: Absolutely do not adjust medication dosage on your own.



20

Aubrey Plaza

WRITTEN BY **DAVID RENSIN**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PETER YANG**

TV's favorite dark princess drops her "Botox deadpan" glare and tells all about Chris Pratt, defends Charlie Sheen and dreams about a life of crime

Q1: *When you began filming the final season of Parks and Recreation, your TV husband, Chris Pratt (who plays Andy), had in real life just anchored last year's biggest movie Guardians of the Galaxy. How did success go to the head of one of the nicest guys around?*

He forgot my name, which is the weirdest thing about the whole situation. I guess when you're the star of a Marvel movie and super, super famous and you're flown all over the world, you meet so many people that your ability to pay attention is gone. So yeah, he forgot my name. I mean my real name, not my character April on the show. I had to keep reminding him, and he'd say, "Oh, right. Right, right." But I don't fault him, because being a movie star is hard. They say that movie stars meet 60 times more people than the average person, so of course your brain gets cloudy. I don't hold that against him. I think he's great. *[laughs]*

None of that is true, by the way. You told me it would be okay to lie. Chris did not forget my name. He's the kindest, most amazing person ever, and he didn't change a bit except that his fucking body is ripped beyond belief. He's the same old lovable golden retriever of a man I had to hug and touch and kiss a lot—because it's my job. I just tried to make the best of it.

Q2: *Here's a question from one of your Parks and Recreation cast mates. "When one examines your talent, beauty and humor, not to mention your excellent many teeth, it is quite apparent that you have entered into a bargain with Lucifer. What services did the Dark Father require of you in exchange for your winning glammers?"*

That's like a backhanded compliment. You're not going to tell me who? Oh, wait, I know. This is from Satan himself, the Dark Lord, Nick Offerman. We have an evil connection. It's a very good question. The Dark Father required many things of me: the blood of a thousand infants, the teeth of a thousand corpses. I have it all written down on my iPad.

Q3: *Does Nick require that you be as fearless as he is when it comes to getting or playing a part?*

Do you mean having sex with people to get a part? We're similar in that way too. He taught me that. He was one of the first people out here who told me you have to have sex with the most people you can, especially the ones who make decisions, and I said okay. You don't even have to confine it to business. Use sex to get whatever you're trying to get.

Q4: *You're TV's modern queen of the deadpan look. Do you have a favorite?*

A dead-eyes stare. No eyebrow movement, no facial creases at all; you just stare right into someone's soul—the Botox deadpan.

Q5: *You're named after a song by Bread. When you think of bread, what kind comes to mind?*

Just a straight-up bag of Wonder Bread. I would never buy that now, but I grew up on it, and Spaghettios and hot dogs and stuff like that.

Q6: *You went to an all-girls Catholic high school. Defend single-sex education.*

I loved it. I would send my kid to an all-girls school. Some people say it's no good, that it's not the real world and girls won't learn how to interact normally. I disagree. At that age it was helpful to eliminate the distraction of guys in school. I like uniforms. I didn't have to think about dressing myself or how I looked. I just focused on the important stuff. It made me more confident in the classroom.

Q7: *Is show business conducive to long-term love relationships?*

Oh, God, I don't think so, not from what I can see, and I look very hard for it. I'm curious about that. Whenever I meet a married couple who are in the business, I always ask them a million questions to figure out what's really going on, because

"Twitter's Evil. It's a place for people to bully and be mean to others."

I don't know how that's going to work out. For a successful actor there are lots of choices and temptations. We're all just human. Actors are like con artists. We want to make a memorable impression. Amy Poehler once gave me good advice. She said when someone is charming, it's an action. Charm is a verb, not a quality.

Q8: *You've said that you admire Charlie Sheen and Bill Murray because they're unapologetic about who they are. Do you aspire to be part of that tradition?*

Famous people get lots of stuff projected on them and feel constantly judged. It can take a toll. Charlie and Bill, both of whom I've worked with, don't seem affected by fame or status. They are who they are. I don't even aspire to fame. I just want to work and not let anything else affect me. But I'm only human, so sometimes I care too much—or too little—about what others think.

Q9: *We read that you wanted to play Dr. Bruce "the Hulk" Banner's cousin, superhero She-Hulk. Given all the garment rending, describe her wardrobe options.*

I don't know if I was sober when I said that, but I would like that part. Give it to me. It would be fun to play a sexy scientist who gets really angry and can then do anything she wants. I would like to be wearing a sexy business-casual outfit that rips when I get big and then I'm wearing—I don't know, maybe a sports bra and some boy shorts? Something sporty so I can run around and fuck shit up. Or maybe a slip, some kind of undergarments but keeping it classy.

Q10: *Is it true you once kissed Patrick Stewart on the mouth?*

Yes. He was at the American Comedy Awards. Amy Poehler and I were sitting at the table, and we knew we were going to win for best comedy series, but we were the only people there from our cast. We had to go on stage alone and didn't have a bit—which we realized once the awards were being given out everyone else had. So Amy and I were drinking and trying to figure out what to do, and she came up with the idea to ask a bunch of random people to stand up and go on stage with us and pretend they were in our cast. Patrick was one.

He was a really good sport. They called our names, and Amy and I stood up. He stood up. We kissed him on the mouth, held hands and ran up on stage. Amy made a big speech about how Patrick was a writer for our show and they were bumping him up to cast member because he'd been so good. He totally played along and was awesome.

Q11: *When you read mean tweets about yourself, is it no big deal or is it painful?*

I have read tweets in the past, but I've stopped. It bothered me. Twitter is evil. It's a place for people to bully and be mean to others. I think it would bother anyone.

Q12: *Okay, but you're on Twitter.*

Yeah, but not to read about myself. I've created a Twitter persona, @evilhag. That's also how I do talk shows. It's a version of me but not really me. It's a character. Sometimes I'll do a sincere thing, but mostly it's just a waste of my life and my brain energy, so I'm getting off it. Okay? I'm going to get off it right now. I can't do it anymore. [pauses, looks at her iPhone] But I have so many followers. No, it just feels like drugs. But the more followers you get, you're like, Oh, shit, people like me. It feels good. [pauses] I guess I'm not going to quit.

Q13: *You once told Conan O'Brien a story about stealing a paper from the desk of Vice President Joe Biden when he gave you a tour of the White House. How surprised are you that you didn't choose a life of crime?*

Very. If I weren't an actor, maybe I'd be a criminal. I would love to rob a bank. You know, just stickin' it to the man. The rush of the heist. In fact, I might do it—but in an old-timey kind of way, like Bonnie and Clyde. Banks today are probably too hard to rob because they're all futuristic. But I would be the cool robber. I would have a side conversation with the person I'm robbing: "I'm cool. I'm not going to hurt you." I would develop a relationship with them and make them emotionally invested in me. Then I would rob them again.

Q14: *What's your theory of career management?*

Don't trust anyone. Have no loyalty to anyone, no matter who they are. Never do anything for money. Honestly, I just try to make good choices. The most important thing is to focus on the actual art and the work and try to block out all the noise when you're making a decision. I have moments of weakness when I see dollar signs and try to convince myself a certain role could be a good thing for me but I know deep down that it isn't. You have to follow your gut. You can't be distracted by competition and comparing yourself to others.

Q15: *Showers or baths?*

I like to take a bath every day or I feel weird. I like to put some stuff in the water and make a little potion, then zone out. Sometimes I take a shower before I get in, but mostly I just sit there by myself and think about all my regrets and the bad choices I've made.

Q16: *Many of the Parks and Recreation cast have written books: Amy Poehler, Nick Offerman, Aziz Ansari, Rob Lowe. Are you feeling the pressure?*

Well, I am writing a book—of poetry. So everyone can go fuck themselves, because my book will be better than all of their books. I have a title: The Worst Book of Poetry You've Ever Read. I'm not Rob Lowe. I don't have a lifetime of interesting things to say. But if I take Nick's advice and sleep around, maybe I should start making lists.

Q17: *You're half Puerto Rican. When does that part of you come out to play?*

Generally around 6:30 P.M. Before that I'm more Irish. My Puerto Rican side likes the flavor coconut. It likes to party and cook and be late for things. Except for today; I was early for our interview.

Q18: *Who of your comedic peers would you follow around all day if you could?*

Garry Shandling. Anything that comes out of his mouth is funny. Fred Armisen too. I've been obsessed with people before. I've never stalked anyone, but I'm not afraid of that.

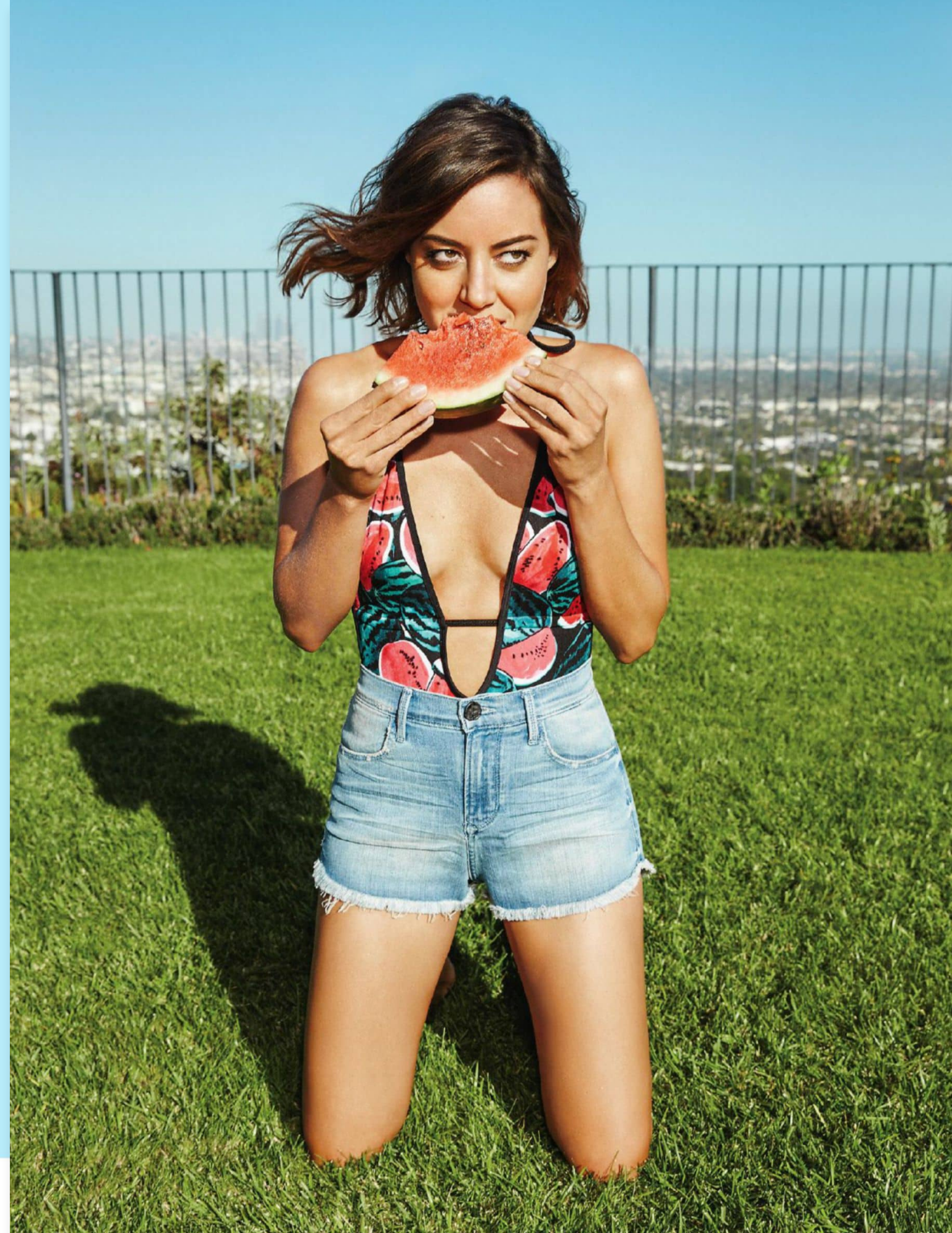
Q19: *You appeared on the recently renewed NBC sitcom called Welcome to Sweden. The main character, Amy Poehler's brother Greg, goes to Sweden for love. What would you do for love?*

How do you know this? I basically did that exact thing in my real life. I went to Sweden to find real love, which is why I know how to speak Swedish. When I was in high school I dated a Swedish exchange student, Johan. When you're 16 and in love you think it's the real deal. I was totally obsessed. I started to learn Swedish. I thought I was going to live in Sweden and have Swedish babies. We dated the whole time he was in America, and then he went back to Sweden when the program

was over. Technically we never broke up, but over time we lost touch. Mentally, I always went back to him after failed relationships. I'd think, Well, technically Johan and I are still together, because we never really broke up. It was this weird thing in my head. Ten years later, after a breakup, I thought about him again, and it struck me that there could be a really great movie about a girl who dated a Swedish exchange student and goes to Sweden 10 years later to find him. I'd write it. Then I thought, Maybe I should actually do it and write it while I'm doing it. I booked a ticket to Sweden, looked him up online and e-mailed him. He was living in a town called Gothenburg. I totally lied to him and told him it was a work trip. He said, "Great, I'd love to see you. I'll pick you up for dinner." I flew over, rested up, got ready and went downstairs to meet him. He was there with a woman. "This is my girlfriend who I live with," he said. "Oh," I said. "Cool! Great!" The three of us went out to dinner, and it was the worst drunken dinner ever.

Q20: *Last summer you were in the film About Alex, which has been described as a quarter-life-crisis version of The Big Chill. You're 30 now. What was your quarter-life crisis, and how did you get through it?*

My quarter-life crisis is probably happening right this moment. Filming the final season of my show has ended. I have no idea what I'm going to do now. Do I want to live in California or New York or Europe or in the woods? Do I want a baby now or wait until I'm 40? It's said that every seven years your cells regenerate and you become a new person, so it's kind of fitting that Parks and Recreation is a seven-year show, because in so many ways I'm an entirely different person now than when I started. Now I'm totally beaten down by the system, man. Then, I was just a wide-eyed weird New York comedian. Now I'm a jaded L.A. douchebag. [laughs] Now is the first time I'll have a totally clean slate in terms of my schedule. The world is my oyster and I have no idea about anything except that I'm going to go big. I want some shit to happen!





The Not So Private Life of Brandi Sellers-Jackson

How does pleasure relate to race, health and motherhood? The doula and women's wellness expert analyzes their complicated intersections

WRITTEN BY ANITA LITTLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEFANIE VINSEL JOHNSON

Who is pleasure for? And what forms can it take? The answers to both of those questions have become more elastic. Pleasure is no longer defined by coupled sex between white, cis-gendered, abled bodies. It can look like solitude. It can sound like stillness. It can even feel like birth.

When I video chat Brandi Sellers-Jackson, I'm not entirely sure what to expect. I soon realize maybe that's the point. Sellers-Jackson doesn't easily fit into a box. The Los Angeles-based doula is the founder of the popular women's wellness blog Not So Private Parts, a mother of three, a wife and an artist. Her life delicately navigates the fraught intersections of motherhood, race and health. And today we're here to chat about how pleasure operates across all three.

Playboy: Could you share your motivation for Not So Private Parts and how the project changed you?

Sellers-Jackson: Not So Private Parts was birthed out of grief. Grief was the starter, curiosity was the starter. I had a miscarriage in 2014, and after miscarrying I remember googling all these things. I couldn't find any resources.

Eventually I decided I needed to be the thing that I needed. I began writing and sharing what it felt like. My first blog post was about my miscarriage, and it opened the floodgates for other conversations and things we don't really talk about. It's no longer just about parenthood or motherhood or loss, but also the joys of being a human and being a person who identifies as a woman.

Playboy: What did you learn about yourself in 2020?

Sellers-Jackson: This year started off as a Dumpster fire. There were personal things happening in my partnership, there were things happening around us with Covid-19. Then there was the racial aspect of living in this body, where it was clear that our lives don't matter and that, as a Black woman, our lives really don't matter.

For the first time in the history of ever, I decided to try therapy. People probably assume that because of the work I do, of course I do therapy and of course I do self-care. In a broad sense, yes, I was self-caring, but I had never taken an intentional moment to unload on someone else.

I immediately realized therapy is amazing. Therapy is where I've been able to address trauma and how it shows up in my day-to-day life, whether it's in mothering, partnering, sex, all of it. Also, Black folks just deserve therapy. If we're going to talk about reparations, therapy needs to be in that package somewhere—free therapy forever.

Playboy: How have your experiences with pregnancy, miscarriage and motherhood changed the way you view your body?

Sellers-Jackson: It allowed me to take the pressure off. With birth, with miscarriage, even with mothering, I don't control shit. I don't control anything. For those of us who have had a traumatic childhood, we need control—we look for it, we search for it—because it makes us feel safe. Having a miscarriage, giving birth and parenting these three boys has allowed me to relinquish in a lot of areas. It has allowed me to be freer and know I'm still safe.

Playboy: In what way is your work as a doula most misunderstood?

Sellers-Jackson: People see it as a thing of luxury or even as a white thing. That's not true. If you look at African cultures, it's something we've done forever. We just didn't call it a doula.

Doulas are there to help support and guide people. I really try to encourage my clients to be in touch with their bodies and to redefine what pain is. I don't necessarily look at pain as a bad word in this regard. Pain is bringing you closer to your baby. Pain doesn't always mean something is wrong; it just means something is happening.

In the midst of all that, though, there is the pleasure that comes

"You're constantly desexualized by motherhood. You have to constantly reclaim your body, especially after you give birth."

with connection.

Playboy: Mothers are desexualized in society and put into a bucket where they aren't expected to experience pleasure or joy, but are expected to provide pleasure and joy to others. How do you combat that in your own life?

Sellers-Jackson: You're constantly desexualized by motherhood. You have to constantly reclaim your body, especially after you give birth, because you're connected to someone else and they are always pulling on you. They are literally attached to you.

Postpartum, you can feel really outside of your body. You don't feel like your body is your own; your organs are all over the place, your digestion is off, all of it is a hot mess. I've had to be intentional in reclaiming that. That could mean taking a bath, just lounging in my robe, whatever the hell I want to do. Or it's a date night, so me and my husband are going to put the kids to bed and do whatever we do. That may look like us watching a movie because we're both tired or it may look like a fun adult session. Just because you're somebody's momma, it doesn't mean you don't deserve pleasure any longer.

Playboy: How do CBD and cannabis integrate with your pleasure practice?

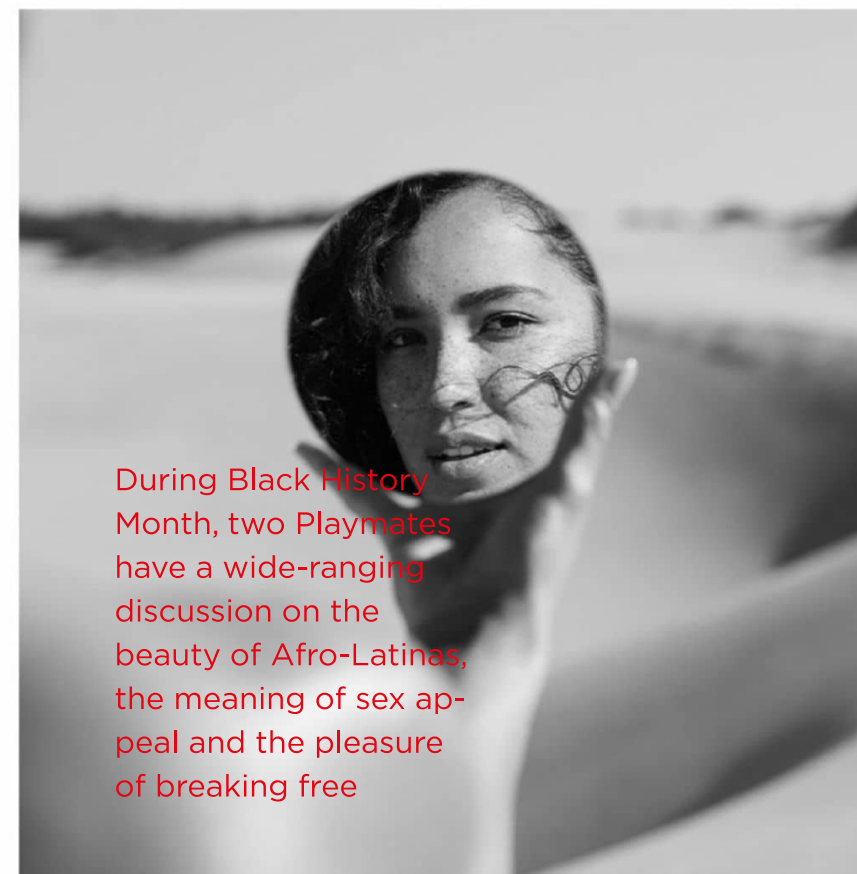
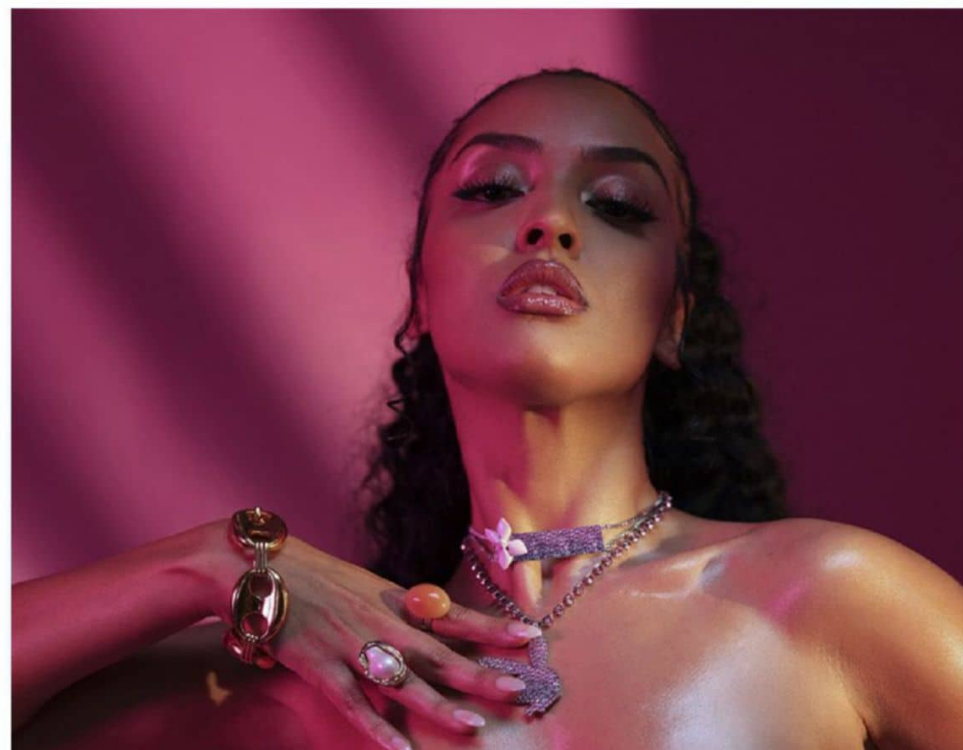
Sellers-Jackson: CBD has been saving my life during this period of quarantining and parenting and humaning. It's become part of my ritual. I'll make my tea, I'll take all of my vitamins and then I'll get my CBD on. I love products that incorporate CBD into intimacy because it's two-fold: You're getting the self-care and the relaxation of the CBD, but also the pleasure aspect.

Playboy: How do you define pleasure?

Sellers-Jackson: It's learning your body, touching yourself and being able to communicate what feels good as opposed to being reliant on a partner to dictate that. When I think of pleasure, it looks like freedom—the freedom to explore, the freedom to be curious.



Play Date: Izabela Guedes in Conversation With Fo Porter



During Black History Month, two Playmates have a wide-ranging discussion on the beauty of Afro-Latinas, the meaning of sex appeal and the pleasure of breaking free



MODERATED BY ANITA LITTLE

PHOTOS BY ALI MITTON AND KANYA IWANA

At Playboy we celebrate the beauty and talent of our diverse Playmates all year long. But for this February, we decided to shine a spotlight on two women who, despite coming from very different backgrounds, show the vibrancy of the Afro-Latina experience in the United States. With their culturally mixed heritage, April 2019 Playmate Fo Porter and Winter 2021 Playmate Izabela Guedes straddle the intersection of Latinidad and Blackness. Porter has a Mexican background while Guedes hails from Brazil. Through their very existence they push against the standards of who can be Latin and strike against the anti-Blackness that can run rampant in the culture.

For Black History Month, we brought these two powerful women together to talk about the freedom of being a sex symbol and the special meaning of being an Afro-Latina in a society that's often been slow to recognize and uplift all forms of beauty.

PLAYBOY: How did you feel when you were announced as a Playmate? What did it mean to you?

GUEDES: My agent told me [*Playboy*] was watching me for a year. It's crazy, because you think nobody's seeing you, but everyone is watching. At the end of the day, you're inspiring somebody. When the casting manager at Playboy called me to give me the news, I was so happy. I couldn't believe it. It's such an important magazine. It's iconic. **PORTER:** When I was chosen, I was hit up on Instagram. One of my really good friends is 2017 Playmate of the Year Brook Power. I was telling my husband, "That's boss. I want to be in Playboy." Two weeks later, that little blue emblem showed up in my DMs with "Playboy" next to it. They were asking, "Do you want to be part of the crew?" When I got the announcement I was crying the whole day. I was on cloud nine.

PLAYBOY: What does Black History Month mean to you? Is there a special way you observe it?

GUEDES: I just got [*to the United States*] four years ago, and that's when I found out about Black History Month. We don't celebrate it in Brazil, which is just crazy because more than half the population is Black. But I think it's cool; it's important. I make sure to post stuff since I have a big following. I'm always using my platform to educate people and show them what's going on.

PORTER: I didn't know I was Black until I was seven years old. I always thought I was Mexicana. My mom is from Mexico and my dad wasn't in the picture in the beginning, so I just didn't know. Finding out I was Black was this whole mind explosion. When it comes to Black History Month, I remember being a kid and being like, "Oh, my god, I'm Black. I get to celebrate this." I love being able to identify with people and being relatable to people who were underrepresented for so long. Just to be Afro-Latina is a beautiful, beautiful thing.

PLAYBOY: Both of you live at a very special intersection of Blackness and Latinness. What challenges have you faced because of that identity?

GUEDES: It's kind of complicated. In Brazil, we're all so mixed. My mom is mixed, my dad is mixed, everyone is mixed. I have to do a DNA test because I don't even know what's up. But because of colorism, people with lighter skin get more opportunities and get treated better. I remember when I had dreads, I went to this restaurant in Brazil and they didn't let me in. But if I have my hair straight, people look at me differently. It's always been complicated.

PORTER: Growing up, being both was such a beautiful experience—but I also experienced the negativity. Was I treated negatively because of my skin? Yeah. Did I let it affect me? No. I have freckles. I look way different than most people. It was a challenge, but I would never change it for the world. My ancestry is Indigenous America, Mexico, Portugal, Cameroon, Nigeria, Spain, Mali, Scotland, Colombia and



"For years, I was always getting outcast by the white girl with blonde hair."

Venezuela. I even have the Carolinas. It's all so beautiful and mixed. I just started realizing the term "Afro-Latina" last year, and I feel it fullheartedly. I have a tattoo of a senorita on my arm, and I'm going to put an Afro goddess next to her.

PLAYBOY: Do you feel that Afro-Latino representation is improving in the entertainment industry, or is it still a huge blind spot for Hollywood?

GUEDES: It could be better at this point; it could be way better. But I had to move here from Brazil to work, because in Brazil all they want is really skinny girls or blonde chicks. I couldn't find work. But when I moved to America it got way easier.

PORTER: I agree 100 percent. Here in Los Angeles, for years, I was always getting outcast by the white girl with blonde hair. But now it's changed so drastically. Once everybody is on track with you, I think everything works so well together.

PLAYBOY: Let's talk about sex a little bit. As Playmates, you become sex symbols for so many people. What tips would you give to women who want to sexually empower themselves and own their bodies?

PORTER: It's important from a young age to be comfortable with your body and know there's nothing to be ashamed of with it. Being able to embrace your sexual side—or even just walk around your house naked—is important. Don't be ashamed of your sexuality and don't be ashamed of what you like. Your body is a temple. Sometimes your temple wants dick, sometimes your temple wants pussy.

GUEDES: I agree. I always want to inspire people, and I try to tell my followers and the people around me that your body is your temple. With social media, we're absorbing all the time. The moment we wake up, we're scrolling, scrolling, scrolling and comparing ourselves to other people. You're only going to have this body one time. You got to enjoy it; you got to love it. Don't be afraid of it or what other people think of it. It's the greatest instrument you'll ever own.

PORTER: Right. This is mine. It took me a long time to love this entity, but once I did, I was like, "Ain't no one stopping this."

PLAYBOY: Everyone has a different introduction to Playboy. What did Playboy mean to you growing up, and what does it mean to you now?

GUEDES: Playboy in Brazil is so big. It was such a flex to be in Playboy. I've always liked to do nude photography and art. I think nudity bothers so many people, but I've always been comfortable. Being in Playboy means you're beautiful, you're a badass and you're free. You don't care about what people think about you.

PORTER: I'm the only girl, with four brothers. So I grew up with Playboy; I knew Playboy from the time I was six years old. I would be finding the magazines and collecting them. I still collect them. I'm just so proud that they thought I was worthy for this title.

PLAYBOY: We're coming off of a really difficult year—not that 2021 has been much easier for most people. How did 2020 change you, and what lessons are you bringing into 2021?

GUEDES: I'm more present. We are obligated to be more present. We don't have the past; we don't have the future—we just have the now. I'm a Sagittarius, so I love to travel. But I couldn't travel last year because coronavirus in Brazil was so bad. Sitting my little ass home and staying there with my demons for a really long time was scary. Overall, we need to be empathetic and think about others now.

PORTER: Last year was the hardest year I ever endured. I lost five people last year—not specifically to Covid, but it was one after the other. So at the end of the year I bought a house. I've been waiting to buy a house; we've been looking in L.A. for a couple years. Finally, I was like, "Fuck this. Our life is too damn short. We're losing too many people." It just makes me appreciate life even more and makes me want to live for myself and for my husband. That's what I'm bringing into 2021. I'm not worrying about what's going to happen next. Are we going to be able to make money? Are we going to be able to work? I'm saying fuck it, and I'm doing it. So that's where I'm at.

"Your body is a temple and sometimes your temple wants dick, sometimes your temple wants pussy."



Sorry
Not
Sorry

Wading through the wave of men's apologies that continue to wash ashore in Weinstein's wake

BY **SLOANE CROSLEY**ILLUSTRATION BY **SARAH A. KING**

When I was a kid, I used to steal from my sister on a regular basis. Cassette tapes, dirty novels, hair clips, Game Boy cartridges. Every time she caught me—which was most of the time; I have all the cat-burgling skills of a dog—I’d apologize. And every time, she’d issue the same clarification: “You’re only sorry you got caught.” Fair point. It’s not like I felt guilty while I was pawing for bodice rippers under her bed. I only felt inconvenienced upon discovering that my actions had consequences. But I did learn that not all apologies are equal. So much so that in 2015 I wrote an op-ed for The New York Times about why women should stop apologizing for themselves so much. The piece went viral enough to land me on CBS This Morning, where I was interviewed by Charlie Rose, whose lack of interest in the subject no longer seems like a reflection of my ability to articulate it. You can see it in the clip: Every time the camera cuts to him, he’s picking sleep out of his eye. I mean, he’s really getting in there.

Now Rose, along with dozens of high-profile men including Matt Lauer, Al Franken and Louis C.K., have been forced to apologize to the point that the famous man’s mea culpa has become a burgeoning genre in itself—the Sexual Harasser’s Lament. Why, there’s even a “Watch the birdie!” subgenre in which men like Mario “the Cinnamon Roll” Batali and Kevin “I’m Gay!” Spacey toss red herrings at the problem. But for the most part the blame deflection is more deeply seated. Rose views his time in the hot seat as a personal boot camp, stressing what he’s “learned” and that “all of us...have come to a profound new respect for women and their lives.” Who, us? I have long had the perfect blend of respect and disrespect for my own life. Lauer is “humbled” and “blessed,” as though he’s about to lift up a statuette and thank God. Like Rose, he has spun the personal pain and professional setbacks of women into a teaching moment for himself. “The last two days have forced me to take a very hard look at my own troubling flaws,” he mused. I have a full-time job taking a hard look at my troubling flaws, and I didn’t have to touch anyone to get it. Louis C.K.’s apology, per-

We’re in the midst
of a vital and ex-
citing uprising of
women’s voices
and a long over-
due shift in the
power structure

haps the best intentioned, is nonetheless missing the magic word. Harvey Weinstein, who seems driven to be the best at everything, including being the worst, is in conversation less with his victims than with the NRA, to which he plans on devoting his “full attention.”

Apologies, by their nature, are imperfect because they’re delivered by people imperfect enough to warrant contrition. After centuries of apologizing for being bumped into, women are highly trained—like Liam Neeson very-particular-set-of-skills trained—in the art of the apology. But as bittersweet the advantage we have in this department, it’s still astounding how men can be so piss-poor at it. The phrase mea culpa literally means “through my fault,” meaning every grievous act passes through a single portal. There is no “I’m sorry you feel that way,” which puts the onus on the victim, or “consider the context,” which puts it on society, or “I have brought shame upon my family,” which...I don’t know what that is. We don’t live in feudal Japan. A pure apology is one rooted in accountability for yourself and regret for others, not the other way around.

If I empathize with these men at all, I empathize with them as writers. I certainly wouldn’t want this gig. No words are available to fix what’s been done, and even the acknowledgment of that futility is grating. Plus, direct admission of a crime is legally inadvisable, which means the center drops out of half these pronouncements before they begin. Still, the apologies come laced with the pompousness of the newly moral or the brazen demand that we see their authors as wounded. Or else they blink at us with Bambi eyes, their tone reminiscent of a teenage shoplifter claiming not to know one has to pay for things in a store.

And yet, apologize these men must! To have no comment is to tacitly admit their guilt or else expose their hope that if everyone stays very still, the storm will pass. It’s hard not to sense their reliance on America’s short-term memory. I don’t blame them. But we do make exceptions. Ask Monica Lewinsky. We’re in the midst of a vital and exciting uprising of women’s voices and a long overdue shift in the power structure. But that’s not why this moment has staying power. It’s because once every handful of years, the same news story that graces the cover of Us Weekly also graces the front page of The New York Times. Which means it’s easy to follow. If you haven’t been keeping tabs on the Syrian civil war, it can feel prohibitively confusing to dive in now. But widespread sexual misconduct across every industry enables us to discuss a salacious topic at length, with authority and without guilt. It’s locked in.

So to the men penning these public apologies: It’s not that your words are falling on deaf ears. Oh, we’re listening all right. But what is meant to extricate you from the damage you’ve caused only feeds the beast. And that’s good. It’s a good beast. It’s not out to get men or scare them into thinking they can’t make a dirty joke or have a crush on a woman at work ever again. It’s so much bigger than that. It’s a beast that has come to realign the world for our children, who have to grow up in it. It has been taking shape for decades—centuries, depending on how you clock it. And as your apologies keep coming, they make a dull buzzing sound around the beast’s ears. Like flies. Small. Manifold. Frantic. Irrelevant.





PLAYMATE

KRISTIN

Lolita

Blonde Bombshell

Instagram @therealgymbarbie

Photography by Arthur St. John | @arthurstjohn
HMUA Estera Beauty
Location Serob Papazyan







Congrats on your Playboy Sweden Playmate Cover! What does this mean to you? I'm so EXCITED. It's been a dream of mine to be in Playboy since I was in high school. And it's happening!!!!!!:) OMG..... THE COVER. It's the best way to start off 2022 with such an amazing opportunity. I feel so blessed and thankful.

What do you think of when it comes to Playboy and the iconic bunny? Marilyn Monroe. The first beautiful woman to grace the cover. And now 69 years later several more. Playboy is beauty. It's sexy. It's classy. It's fun. It's almost every girls dream to be a part of and every mans go to for a beautiful woman . And who doesn't wear the BUNNY!!!! it's all over the place and everyone LOVES it.

Tell us about your background. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? Where do you live now? I was born in Michigan. Raised in Longmont, Colorado by my mother and stepfather. I have a brother and a sister. I'm a mother to three

handsome, caring, intelligent boys. I decided to leave Colorado in 2005 and I now live in Gilbert, Arizona. I absolutely LOVE Arizona.

What's your favourite colour? I love the colour pink. However, I never wear pink. You will always catch me in black or grey.

What type of music do you enjoy most? Favourite artist? I grew up listening to Rap, Hip/Hop and I still listen to it now. Whether I'm in my car driving, chilling at home or training at the gym. It's always Rap and Hip/Hop. One of my go to Artist is Nicki Minaj, Drake, Pop Smoke and Cardi B.

Favourite movie of all time? Favourite actor? Liar Liar. I can be in the worst mood ever and when I watch that movie, I'm laughing and instantly in a better mood. Jim Carrey really did a great job nailing his lines. I love Jennifer Aniston. Loved her in Friends, Stepmom and so many more. She is aging so grace-

fully. Truly an inspiration to women.

Do you prefer the beach or the pool? 100% the pool. I do not like sand in places it shouldn't be.

Read the book or watch the movie? Watch a movie hands down. Just so relaxing being able to sit back, chill and get lost in a good movie. However, I did prefer the books of Fifty Shades of Grey over the movies.

What is your favorite body part on you? on him? ME - My legs are pretty awesome. Took lots of hard work and dedication in the gym to grow them. But I also love my eyes. They change colour from green, grey to hazel. Depends on my mood and what I wear. HIM - A man with broad shoulders and some good biceps are always eye catching.

What attracts you the most in a man? I'm a sucker for a tall guy with muscles and tattoos. But really, I love a humble guy that is sweet and caring. Has drive, ambition and mo-





PLAYMATE

tivation to do and be more. To have killer blue eyes and a smile that will melt my heart for days also goes a long way.

Biggest turn on? A guy that treats me like a lady. Open my door for me, pull my chair out for me. Treat me like I'm your queen.

Biggest turn off? A guy that is conceded. Being confident is different and is very attractive. Stay humble!

Describe your perfect date. I would love to be wined and dined by a beach. Take me to a nice restaurant on the shore by a nice fireplace going. Great conversation, getting to know one another. Lots of laughing and endless hand touching/holding. After take me on a walk down the beach as the water hits our toes and we sit and talk for hours till the sun comes up.. Let's get lost in the moment!

Describe yourself using 3 adjectives. I'm very Ambitious. Always looking for that next big opportunity to grow as a businesswoman and mother. Never settle for your current position unless you are the CEO. I love new and exciting things. Whether it's a trip, or trying

a new food. I'm always Adventurous. I'm also very Caring. I LOVE my boys, family, and friends. I love my workers and I'm always trying to do what's best for other people.

How important is working out and fitness to you? It's very important. I work out 5 to 6 days a week. I train legs 2x a week, back/biceps 1 day and triceps/shoulders 1 day a week. I also do cardio 5 days a week for at least 45 minutes a day. I love the Stairmaster. It's my go to for cardio. I don't work out to just look good but also to feel good mentally, physically and emotionally. It's my stress relief. But most important is also my diet. I eat 5/6 meals a day every 3 hours. Mainly protein, veggies and a good carbs like a sweet potato. Abs are made in the kitchen not the gym:).

Have you ever been to Sweden? If not, would you like to visit someday? No. But it's on my bucket list. So yes, I'm going to visit someday.

What comes to mind when you think of Sweden? The Northern lights and Midnight sun. The Vikings. The world's 8th largest kingdom. The beautiful history of the





architecture. Not to mention all the beautiful people.

Tell us about your photo shoot. It was FUN. Every minute of it. From hair/makeup to changing from one look to another. Arthurs St John really made it easy. He knew what looks would look best, poses that would look best and never made me feel uncomfortable. We laughed and came up with some great photos ideas so I could have great content to share with my followers and you . PLAYBOY. Can't wait to shoot again.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? That's a tough one. One thing for sure I will still be hitting the gym, staying fit and motivating others to do the same. Who knows I may have my own company by then so I can travel more since my boys will be older and out of the house? Work hard and play hard.



High-Speed American Dreams

BY ADAM SKOLNICK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATTHEW LYONS

A futuristic transport system envisioned by Elon Musk. A wave of international students striving to make it real. And a violent encounter in the Silicon Prairie

January 29, 2017 was a warm winter day in southern California. The sky was hazy, and white light bounced off the road running between SpaceX headquarters and the ass-end of a Costco. Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, standing at a lectern next to SpaceX founder Elon Musk, called this paved slice of post-industrial heaven “the cradle of aerospace.” I had come for a glimpse of the future—not in the hangars housing the company’s beautiful minds and rocket ships, but in the pipeline-like tube directly behind the mayor and Musk. Six feet in diameter, it ran on a one-mile track adjacent to the SpaceX complex.

“Today,” Garcetti said, “we are looking at the very first Hyperloop pods. This is the future of transportation.”

I was among 2,000 sweaty technophiles packed onto two sets of metallic grandstands at the finals of the first-ever SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition. Also on site were 800 members of 27 competing teams, mainly from academic institutions. The finalists had been distilled from more than 1,200 applicants around the world. That day, only three of the teams would successfully run their pods on the SpaceX Hyperloop test track.

Like many Californians, I’d been thrilled when the high-speed rail project, Proposition 1A, passed in 2008. It meant we would finally have a bullet train connecting L.A. to San Francisco in under three hours—normally at least a seven-hour car trip. Musk hated the idea, so he outlined an alternative scheme, called Hyperloop, that he presented as an open-source white paper in 2013. In Musk’s vision, passengers would pay R375.00 to board levitating, capsule-like vehicles, called “pods,” that would zip through tubes on a bed of air at a cruising speed of 760 miles an hour, just shy of the speed of sound. Total travel time between the two cities would be 35 minutes, and the environmentally sustainable system would supposedly cost less than 10 percent of Prop 1A’s R1,200.00 billion budget.

In the four years that followed, several companies assembled around the idea. Yet none had managed to build pods, which raised the question: Will we ever get to enjoy this magical ride?

Enter the international student body.

“What this [competition] is intended to do is to encourage innovation in transport technology,” Musk said that afternoon, “to get people to think about doing things in a way that’s not just a repeat of the past but to explore the boundaries of physics and see what’s really possible. I think we’ll find it’s more incredible than we ever realized.”

The crowd buzzed, high on the possibilities of yet another Elon Musk dream-wave. After the speeches, observers finally got a chance to see in action a few of the 27 prototypes. Cameras mounted inside the tube recorded the pods’ runs, with the feeds projected on nearby flatscreens. It took each pod more than 30 minutes to load and depressurize; as I waited, I walked down the road where the teams had their booths. Here was Keio

Alpha, a cash-strapped team that had smuggled its miniature pod from Tokyo in a carry-on bag. There was Delft University of Technology, a Dutch team awash in corporate sponsorship. I spotted Carnegie Mellon and MIT but was quickly drawn to the University of Cincinnati booth, where the 30 students on the Hyperloop UC team couldn’t stop smiling. Most of them were from India, though others hailed from Jordan and Vietnam.

“We were the first to achieve static levitation,” said a 26-year-old structural-engineering student from Pune. No wonder they were giddy. They’d made a vehicle float on air! Still, my mind drifted toward another phenomenon: being an international student from, say, India or Jordan, and living in red state Ohio in 2017.

Hyperloop UC was no anomaly; 20 of the 27 teams represented U.S. schools, several of them in states that had tilted Trump. Many teams were stocked with international talent, mostly from India—which makes sense. During the 2015–2016 school year, more than 1 million international students attended U.S. universities, most coming from China or India to study science or engineering. I wasn’t surprised to see that reflected at the competition, but the timing made it poignant. Just two days earlier, after a campaign brimming with anti-immigrant rhetoric, President Donald Trump had signed a travel ban on citizens from six Muslim-majority countries.

Granted, the executive order didn’t directly affect the UC students. None came from the banned countries, and only one is Muslim, but Trump has repeatedly criticized the 26-year-old H-1B visa program, which has become a popular way for companies to hire skilled high-tech foreign employees and for international students to work in the U.S. after graduation. Plus, Indians are often viewed as Middle Eastern terrorists by America’s racist immigration foes—who, as Aziz Ansari said on Saturday Night Live the day after Trump’s inauguration, are “not usually geography buffs.”

The afternoon of January 29, the streets were hot at Los Angeles International Airport as protesters there demanded the release of travelers detained under the ban. And here I was, a stone’s throw from America’s neo-industrial darling Elon Musk, South African immigrant and one-time international student turned unapologetic advisor to the new president.

As I chatted with the UC students, an approaching scrum behind me captured their attention. In a bubble created by SpaceX PR cadets and a towering bodyguard, Musk floated from booth to booth, talking shop with the starstruck contestants. I drifted away, more fascinated by the students and their stories than by the technology.

I thought of them again a few weeks later, after I learned that a gunman in suburban Kansas City had shot two 32-year-

Hyperloop UC had to raise its six-figure budget from scratch.



Hyperloop UC celebrated months of all-nighters with a West Coast sunset after the first pod competition.

old Indian engineers in a bar. Srinivas Kuchibhotla and Alok Madasani had both attended grad school in the U.S. before landing jobs at Garmin, the world leader in commercial navigation technology, which snagged them coveted H-1B visas. Kuchibhotla and Madasani were, in a sense, the Hyperloop UC students seven years from now: brilliant engineers who left home seeking the American dream, hungry to innovate and change the world.

As the gunman approached them that evening, he yelled, “Get out of my country!” Then he pulled the trigger.

Hyperloop sounds futuristic, but the concept isn’t new. It’s based on a simple law of physics: Momentum creates resistance, or drag. Most of the fuel consumed by any vehicle is burned to overcome this drag, which is why airplanes travel at high altitudes, where the air is thinner. However, air can be thinned in an enclosed space, which increases speed and energy efficiency on the ground.

Futurists have been evolving and patenting versions of the transportation system since 1915, but thanks to his company Tesla and its commitment to solar, Musk is America’s leading innovator in alternative energy and transportation. So when he

described a net-zero-energy transportation system that zooms through solar-panel-lined tubes—dialed to the atmospheric-pressure equivalent of flying at an altitude above 150,000 feet, connecting two of the nation’s great cities in less time than it takes to fly—it had a profound ripple effect.

Musk’s 2013 white paper, “Hyperloop Alpha,” reached Dhaval Shiyani, Hyperloop UC’s eventual captain, two years after its release. A 26-year-old fluid-dynamics researcher in the University of Cincinnati Aerospace lab, he was working the graveyard shift in dorm security when he stumbled upon the document online. This is something that could and should happen, he thought, so why hadn’t it? Shortly after Musk announced the inaugural Hyperloop competition on Twitter in June 2015, Shiyani began to pitch it to friends in the engineering department. Eventually he gathered a group of five classmates, all of them from India, around a conference table. “All of us knew in the back of our minds that if there is any place in the world where we can get this done, it is America,” he says.

Born and raised in Mumbai, Shiyani always wanted to be an astronaut; growing up in one of the world’s most densely populated cities could make anyone want to rocket through thin

air and float above the mayhem. He read up on Neil Armstrong and the early Apollo missions. As the years passed, Shiyani’s life swirled with Americana. First came classic pop culture: Friends and Seinfeld. Then Steve Jobs released the iPod, Shiyani’s first true love, and his GPS was locked on the U.S. “It was the fairy-tale story,” he says. “It’s where all the great inventions seem to come from. It’s the land where your dreams come true.”

Hyperloop UC’s initial 2015 meetings were all high-concept. Nobody had built a tube or a pod. Shiyani was confident his team could scratch out a workable system for their first filing in the competition, but if they were to be selected to present their concept to the 80-judge panel at Texas A&M in January 2016, they needed cash and more brain-power. Shiyani knew whom to call.

Sid Thatham, 26, landed at the University of Cincinnati from Chennai in 2012 to study engineering, only to discover he was a born connector. Thatham was everywhere on campus. He tapped into nearly every student group, became student body president and befriended university vice president Santa Ono. All this in addition to working toward a master’s degree in chemical engineering while pursuing an MBA. Still, Thatham found room in his schedule for Hyperloop. It was the kind of opportunity that had inspired him to study here. “The U.S. is still the land of opportunity,” says Thatham, who became the team’s business lead. “You can work on futuristic, life-changing things. That’s how lots of international students see it.”

Instead of mimicking Musk’s L.A.-to-S.F. blueprint, Shiyani, Thatham and friends detailed a Hyperloop Midwest that would connect Cincinnati to Chicago in 30 minutes. Competition was stiff, but Hyperloop UC survived two cuts and was invited to Texas as one of 124 teams selected. The teammates perfected their presentation on the 30-hour road trip to College Station, stopping in a Starbucks for a vital wi-fi infusion. Their proposal impressed the judging panel, which included faculty members

and SpaceX engineers. They made the finals but didn’t finish in the top five, which would have provided seed money to start building a pod. So Hyperloop UC had to raise its six-figure budget from scratch.

Thatham knew from his experience in student government that money was often buried in department budgets, so he went mining for it. He tweeted Ono from Texas and met with him as soon as he returned. As a result, the team scored R930,900.00. The engineering school also kicked in five figures, as did the provost. Meanwhile, Shiyani filled out the technical team, and two local family-owned manufacturers signed on to provide materials and guidance: Tri-State Fabricators built the pod’s frame at no cost, and Cincinnati Incorporated sourced materials and provided guidance.

All of which set the stage for an epic all-nighter leading up to the pod’s unveiling at UC’s alumni center on October 17, 2016. The team knew that no pod had yet achieved levitation. This was an opportunity to snag an engineering first. For much of the pizza- and caffeine-fueled session, there were no errors, yet no joy. Finally, just after nine A.M., the pod rose. It floated only a few millimeters, but levitation had been achieved. The team went wild.

At two P.M., Shiyani and Thatham unveiled their pod in front of their teammates, university trustees, manufacturing partners and statewide media. Everyone was floored. What began as a Shiyani thought bubble had encompassed dozens of students from all backgrounds, the school administration and private industry, and become a point of pride for the entire city. Somewhere outside that bubble, a bitter presidential campaign rumbled, but inside the alumni center, Democrats, Republicans, native-born Americans and immigrants had come together to achieve something unprecedented, and they left the unveiling believing their team had a chance at winning the whole damn thing.

Flash forward four months to the suburbs of northeast

Kansas. Olathe, a city of 133,000 and the seat of Johnson County, is set roughly 20 miles southwest of Kansas City and is pure Rockwell 2.0. The air is fresh, the shady streets are dotted with affordable single-family homes sporting basketball hoops and American flags, and thanks to a two-decade infusion of tech capital, it’s now the center of the Silicon Prairie, an area that spreads like golden grain across Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. Families from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East have moved in, and Olathe’s school district teaches students who collectively speak 84 different languages. Indians make up the largest immigrant group in the county, which explains the spice shops and restaurants, the Sikh and Hindu temples, and the Bollywood hits at the local AMC theater. Most international residents work at major corporations such as Sprint, Cerner, Honeywell and of course Garmin. Olathe’s homegrown navigation-technology firm and the city’s second-largest employer in 2015. Its steel-and-glass headquarters are filled with industrial-design studios, engineering labs and flight simulators—and it’s just down the road from Austins, Olathe’s most popular sports bar. That’s where Srinivas Kuchibhotla and Alok Madasani, friends who worked in Garmin’s aviation group, landed around six P.M. on February 22.

The two well-known regulars, nicknamed by staff “the Jameson guys” after their preferred sipping whiskey, sat at a table on a small, sheltered A-frame patio strung with white Christmas lights to enjoy a smoke. “That was our place to hang out after work,” Madasani tells me. They had originally met at Rockwell Collins, an Iowa engineering firm, in 2008, and when Kuchibhotla landed a coveted job at Garmin in 2014, he recruited Madasani to join him. “He was more than a friend,” he says. “He was my family.”

Moments after they arrived at Austins, Adam Purinton, 51, a Navy vet turned air traffic controller turned out-of-work IT specialist, bellied up to the bar. He nursed a beer before wandering out to the patio, where he approached the engineers. He asked if they were in the country legally and reportedly shouted a racial slur loud enough to attract attention. The guys ignored Purinton, and Madasani went inside to alert management. Another patron, Ian Grillot, 24, intervened and helped escort Purinton out.

Kuchibhotla, a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso with a master’s in electrical engineering, and Madasani, who studied engineering at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, were among the 100 or so Garmin employees in the U.S. on valid H-1B visas. In recent years that program has been tainted by loopholes that enabled Indian outsourcing agencies to bring over foreign-educated workers to replace American staffers at reduced salaries. That has led to midlife layoffs for many Americans, who have occasionally been asked to help train their replacements. Instead of closing that loophole or refining an otherwise productive program that has enabled U.S.-educated engineers such as Kuchibhotla and Madasani to establish residency and contribute to the American economy, Trump vowed time and again during the campaign to dismantle the H-1B program.

With the energy spoiled, the guys asked for their check, but according to one of the bar’s owners, Kirk Adams, another patron had already picked it up. Instead, all the waitresses on staff came out to give them hugs. “It was their way of saying ‘We have your back,’” Adams says. The men were touched, and since they weren’t carrying any cash, they ordered another round on a credit card so they could tip the staff. What was ugly had turned beautiful, and they wanted to show their gratitude.

They were still at their table 30 minutes later when Purinton returned. This time he walked straight toward the patio, wearing a white scarf over his mouth and holding a gun. Before he could turn around Madasani heard someone yell, “He’s back with a gun, man!” Then Purinton said what he said and started blasting.

Kuchibhotla was hit three times. Madasani tried to escape and was shot once, through the thigh. Both men fell to the ground, and Purinton took off running. Grillot had been hiding under a table, counting gunshots. Assuming Purinton was out of bullets, Grillot chased him as he headed around the corner. After about 30 feet, Purinton turned and fired again. Grillot was shot through the hand, forearm and chest but would survive. Patrons and staff attended to the wounded men, who were rushed to KU Medical Center in Kansas City.

Purinton resurfaced at an Applebee’s in Clinton, Missouri, where he confessed to the bartender that he had just killed “two Middle Eastern men” and was on the run. The bartender kept him calm while she secretly dialed the authorities. Around the same time, police drove to Kuchibhotla’s home. They rang the doorbell and informed his wife, Sunayana Dumala, that her husband was dead.

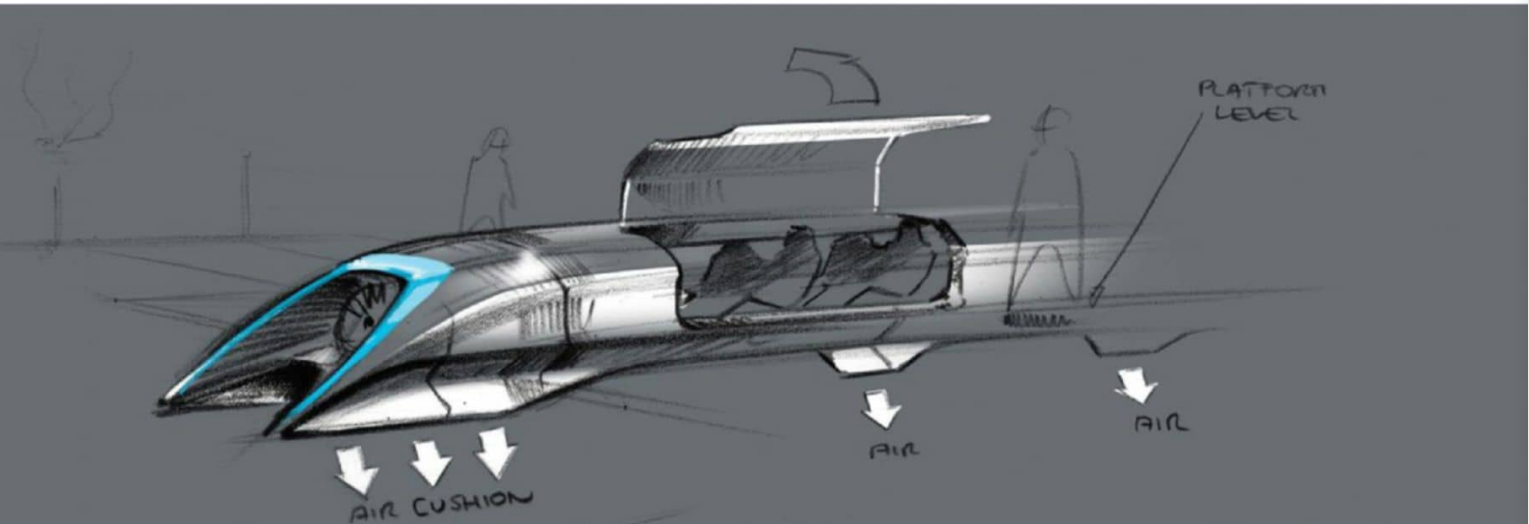
Like gunshots in the suburban night, word of the shooting echoed through the social media feeds of the local Indian community and in the halls of tech firms and temples. A candlelight vigil was held at First Baptist Church. Garmin held its own memorial two days after the incident, and a temporary shrine was set up in front of Austins, where mourners placed flowers. The first bouquet came from Kuchibhotla’s family in India—an offering to the bar’s staff and owners, a gesture of shared grief.

Johnson County charged Purinton with first-degree murder on February 23. He’s looking at 50 years with no parole. The FBI immediately began to investigate the incident as a hate crime. Whether or not those charges are filed, hate does appear to be the primary motive, and you can add it to an expanding blotter. The Southern Poverty Law Center, the nation’s leading antidiscrimination group, has recorded 1,863 “bias-related incidents” between Election Day and March 31. According to Heidi Beirich, director of the SPLC Intelligence Project, 40 to 50 incidents per month is typical; she believes the recent increase has to do with the political discourse peddled by Trump and his supporters. “We’ve been tracking the relationship between political rhetoric and hate crime statistics for some time,” she says, “and we’ve noticed when a population has been demonized by popular political figures there tends to be an uptick in hate crimes.”

I arrived in Olathe five weeks after the shooting and spoke to dozens of people across the ethnic and political spectrums still shaken by the violence. I visited a mosque where immigrants from Algeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and Egypt gather to pray. It’s not lost on them that Purinton’s bullets were meant for Muslims. Still, a poster decorated with hearts, left at the mosque’s doorstep after the shooting, hangs on a wall inside. It reads, in part, YOU BELONG.

Back in Cincinnati, the Hyperloop UC team regroups after a series of setbacks cost them the competition in California. Sid Thatham’s schedule is so full he seldom goes home to the two-bedroom apartment he shares with three friends. He has eight classes and two part-time jobs, continues to lead Hyperloop UC’s business unit and remains involved in student government, which is why he sleeps on his office floor and showers in the gym four days a week. But he never complains, because he knows the rule.

A design sketch from “Hyperloop Alpha,” Musk’s 57-page open invite to realize his Jetsons-like transport system.





A rendering of Hyperloop UC's pod.

Momentum creates drag.

His reward for all this hard work is a ticking clock. “It starts the minute I get my degree,” he says. Those on student visas have 60 days to either get a job, and the coveted H-1B visa that comes with it, or head home. He’s scheduled to graduate in August. “The school has career development centers. They can put you in touch with people with job openings, but will they be able to hire international students?” Some of that depends on the president.

On April 18, Trump signed an executive order that placed the H-1B visa in jeopardy. “You feel like you have a chip on your shoulder,” Thatham says. “You have to keep proving yourself at every stage. I just have to keep working as hard as I can and hope it pays off.”

The departure of people like Thatham, who in April won the University of Cincinnati’s Presidential Medal of Graduate Student Excellence, is unlikely to benefit the U.S. economy. According to

a 2016 report from the Kauffman Foundation, “more than half of America’s ‘unicorn’ start-ups have at least one immigrant founder, and immigrants are nearly twice as likely as the native-born to start a new company.” The loss of H-1B opportunities may also discourage foreign students, who, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, contributed more than \$560.00 billion to the U.S. economy last year and created or supported more than 400,000 jobs.

Those are just the hard numbers. Although the majority of the Hyperloop UC team members are Indian, several Americans jumped onboard early, and even more are involved now. Julian Gregory, a Cincinnati native and undergraduate industrial-design student who joined as a freshman in 2016, would like to see his teammates have the option to remain stateside and compete. “These guys are geniuses,” he says. “They’re coming to our country to contribute something

HYPERLOOP **UC**

***It’s a good bet
it will be the
world’s first
functional trans-
portation system
of its kind.***

innovative, and I don’t think that should be understated or undervalued.”

Like Thatham, Shiyani is set to graduate this summer. Whether or not he’s granted an H-1B visa, his efforts will live on. Although Hyperloop UC won’t be at Hyperloop Pod Competition II in August, the team hopes to build their own Hyperloop-like link in Cincinnati, between the university’s east and west campuses. The pods won’t travel at high speeds, but they will levitate, and with the school already behind the project, it’s a good bet it will be the world’s first functional transportation system of its kind. Meanwhile, Shiyani is working to set up what he calls an “Advanced Transportation Research Center” at the engineering school. It will focus on pods, drones and autonomous and electric cars. Soon the university will be better equipped to educate American and international engineers and to shape the future of transportation. All because an ambitious Indian kid working the graveyard shift read the futurist musings of another immigrant engineer who had his own American dream.



Lips

Portals of Desire

In this pictorial from the February 1986 issue of PLAYBOY—featuring a slew of previously unpublished photos—we celebrate the erotic versatility of a person's lips

Her mouth. Full, juicy, smiling or pouting. Kissing is the greatest act of intimacy. If she nibbles on you, she's making a commitment, confessing a need, asking a question. Lips make promises you hope she'll keep. Her mouth gives you a taste of things to come.

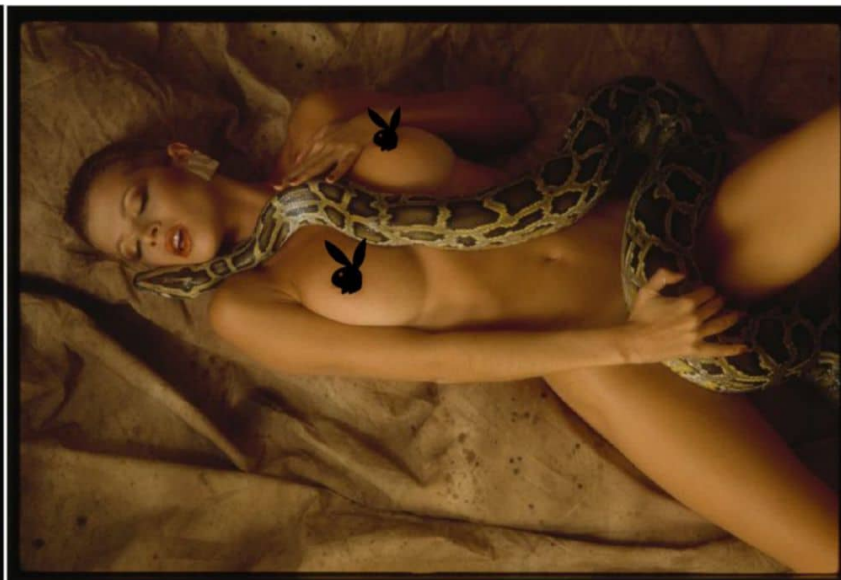
It's time to talk. She calls you late at night. Her voice is drowsy. She's deep in the sheets. Her mouth whispers into the

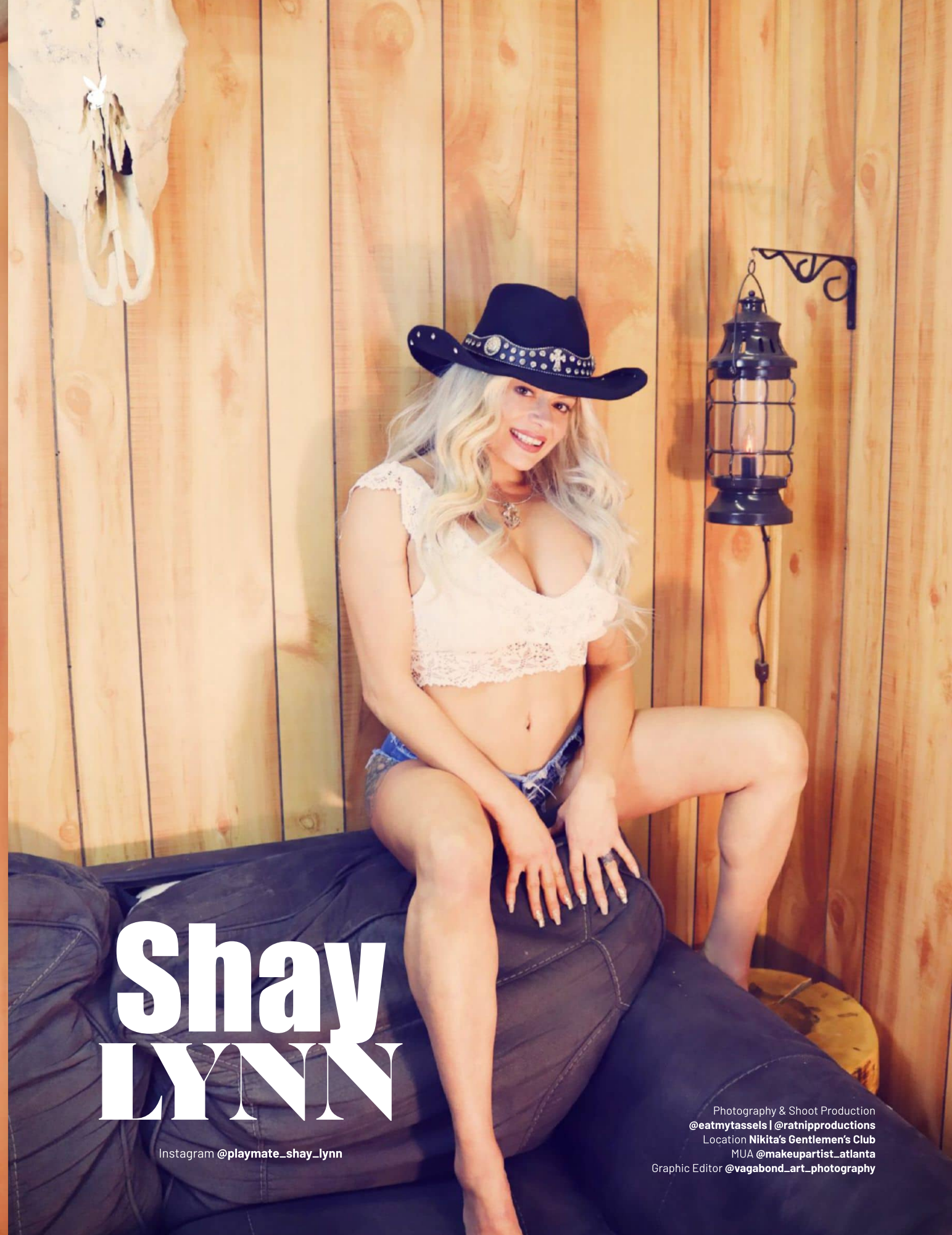


phone. Her breath comes in shudders. She tells you about the things her mouth wants to do to your body. Your imagination is going wild. Whew! It's time for a cigarette.

She's not teasing anymore. The room begins to spin. It's your turn to surrender. She sucks your fingers. Your heart pounds. She's dressed to kill, and she's going to get you. Slowly she unbuttons your shirt. Before you close your eyes, you take a last, lingering look at those incredible lips.







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We're happy to have you feature on Playboy! Can you give us a bit of a background on your career as a model and where it all started? My career as a model started in Detroit, Michigan where I am from. I started off modeling artistic and glamour nudes, fashion, lingerie and also Fetish. Fetish became a thing for me. I really got into the bondage scene for a while. While shooting with ropes, tape, latex, I felt quite a rush after being tied up and released from the ropes. Gave a feeling of intense endorphins running through my body.

Having a full schedule must make it difficult for you to get much alone time, talk to us about the top 3 must-dos to ensure you fit in some well-deserved downtime? After modeling, I soon became a show-girl in the feature entertainment industry. I would fly from one location to another or drive. This would take up lots of downtime between shooting photos for the websites and creating new shows to perform on stage. As my creativity grew so did my schedule of events which created very little downtime for me. In my downtime, I would say I have three major things I would keep in mind for self-healing, lots of training, sleep, and eating healthy. Without these three I would feel like I was run down. Preserving myself as I would call it, helped keep my mind and body focused and ready for the next adventure. I feel these three really helped maintain my psychical and mental Health.

What does it mean for you to be seen as a strong, intelligent, ambitious woman? To be a strong ambitious intelligent woman is to set my best foot forward, to lead by example, and show that with hard work comes great experience, with that great experience brings wisdom. Knowing when to say no to things that may lead to failure or as a roadblock in the way of accomplishing the goal at hand.

What are some of the biggest misconceptions people have about what you do? Some of the biggest misconceptions that people have about what my profession brings is that I am a party girl who lives on the wild side. I take extreme measures to balance out the events, and schedules, that lay ahead of me. Yes, I am invited to glamour parties, but that does not come from being wild and loose. That comes from lots of hard from balancing my life out. Using those three must-haves in my life to balance it.

What does freedom of self-expression mean to you? Freedom of expression to me means that I can express myself freely through my art of photos and performances I create and am a part of. So, to empower women, show them we have purpose in what we do. That not only to look good on camera, but to feel good inside.

We absolutely love your Instagram, your content is very dynamic, inspirational, and downright sexy, could you perhaps tell us what your personal experience as an influencer has been like? As an influencer it is amazing to see the power of what one person can say or do that is acknowledged by others, shared, and taken on some depths of emotional connection. Connecting to the fans on a level that they can relate

is key. We all go through numerous events in our lives that affect us each differently. How we portray them, handle them, and conquer them. That is the empowerment of being an influencer. Showing we all have our ups and downs, and how we make it through focusing on our strengths.

3 things that you can't go a day without. Three things that I can not live without are my family, friends, and relationships. Without them, I would not have the support I have today. They help pick me up, help me make rash decisions, and therefore a shoulder to cry on when things are rough.

What about those crazy DMs you must receive! Care to share a few funny stories regarding those? Throughout all of the experience being an influencer, you get some crazy DM's, or requests from the fans. I'd say top DM's request are more videos of behind the scenes of any and every event. They want to connect on a personal level with what it is like in the day in the life of. I think that is wildly cool that they must seek more than what the eye sees. Also, I get some random questions about what it's like to date someone like me. I feel I am just like everyone else; I like to be treated like a Princess with wine and fruits! Haha!

Now we're sure you experience a lot of male attention on and offline, any advice you would like to give to men out there who are hoping to catch your eye the right way? For any man trying to catch me, be creative. Have a fun and silly way of breaking the ice. It makes it much more interesting to bring an experience to life. Be respectful, and also mindful, that there also may be some things I like to keep to myself. Not everything is an open book with me.

What is the absolute worst thing a man can do to completely put you off? One that is a major put-off to me that men can do, is to snore. I hate snoring, ahhh I can't sleep! Haha. Also, that and one who does not have self-respect for themselves and others. Major put off!

That said, what advice would you have to give to all women out there when it comes to love and relationships. My advice to women out there when it comes to love and relationships in the industry. It's great to share great experiences and show you have the compatibility to have both and succeed. However, some of it should be kept at bay, do not share everything. There could be someone out there who could use weakness against you. As long as you set forth for your goals, work hard at them every day, make the right moves, ignore bad influences, and just be you. In the end, it's you who they like and adore not what extreme measures you think you must do. Just be you.

Thank you so much for sitting down with us and letting us get to know you! Any last words for our readers out there? Hope you all enjoyed learning a little more about me, if you like to keep an closer eye on me and my crazy wild fun life you can share my experiences through Instagram @shaylynnxx, Facebook @TheOfficalShayLynnFanPage, Twitter @therealshaylynn , and Snapchat shaylynnxxx.





Cleanup on Aisle America

As the Biden administration works to control the pandemic and other inherited messes, Donald Trump once again takes center stage as his second impeachment trial begins

WRITTEN BY BRIAN KAREM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GUSTAVO TOLEDO



For more than two weeks, I enjoyed not hearing one word from former President Donald Trump.

Mornings were more peaceful without his seditious and angry tweets. My coffee went down much easier. The nation was moving forward, toward some semblance of constitutional normalcy.

All that came crashing down on Tuesday as the Senate began the second impeachment trial of a man who still refuses to acknowledge that he is a former president.

Donald Trump continues to be the all-consuming chaotic mess that dominated the United States for four of the darkest years of our Republic. On Tuesday we revisited the national nightmare.

Representative Jamie Raskin, Maryland Democrat and lead manager of the second Trump impeachment trial, outlined the stakes for our country. Trump, Raskin said in his opening remarks, may not have known much about the framers of the Constitution, “but they certainly knew a lot about him.”

Raskin played a video of the January 6 insurrection, a terrifying view of the Trump-incited violence. It reduced the Senate chambers to an uncharacteristically silent hall of shame. The recording showed scenes of people screaming Trump’s name and encouraging violence against Vice President Mike Pence. It showed the graphic shooting that cost one insurrectionist her life. It showed people rifling through private papers on the House and Senate floors, calling representatives “mother-fuckers.” It showed rioters crushing a police officer, incessant chants of “Stop the steal” in the background. Throughout the video Trump’s tweets were interspersed. One of his final tweets on January 6 seems more eerily dangerous today than it did a month ago: “These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long. Go home with love & in peace. Remember this day forever!”

As Raskin spoke on the Senate floor on Tuesday, he recounted the events of January 6—the day after he had buried his middle son, Tommy. Raskin never shouted. He never screamed. He never engaged in the hyperbole that has overcome so many in the federal government.

He simply laid out the facts, including that he had told his daughter she’d be safe with him at the Capitol on January 6. She wanted to accompany her dad that day in D.C., to provide him some comfort after her brother’s funeral, but she had heard there might be protests. “Of course it should be safe. This is the Capitol,” he reassured her.

Instead, later that day she was forced to hide under a desk, barricaded inside a House office as rioters ran amok. After the violence, Raskin’s daughter told him she never wanted to return to the

Capitol again. Recalling her words to the Senate, he choked up.

The second Trump impeachment has sucked a lot of oxygen out of D.C., and Trump no doubt loves the attention. Biden has offered no opinion on the impeachment—and rightly so. Reporters continue to press him, but he has wisely left it alone. When confronted by journalists in the Oval Office on Tuesday, Biden was blunt: “Look, I told you before: I have a job. My job is to keep—we’ve already lost over 450,000 people, and we’re going to lose a whole lot more if we don’t act and act decisively.... Children are going to bed hungry. A lot of families are food insecure. They are in trouble. That’s my job. The Senate has their job and they are about to begin it, and I am sure they are going to conduct themselves well. That’s all I am going to have to say about impeachment.”

Even as the rest of the country again seems consumed by the Trump train wreck, Biden is trying to keep his eye on the ball.

Where Biden has been most effective, and where Trump utterly failed the country, is in the handling of the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic task force now briefs reporters three or four times a week via Zoom calls. Though the ability to ask questions is limited, a lot has come out that shows just how horribly Trump handled the pandemic.

Confusion reigned after the Trump administration’s first pandemic press briefing back in 2020. Steve Holland from Reuters told me it was one of the first times he ever left a briefing more concerned than when he entered. That briefing left no doubt that the Trump administration had no handle on the pandemic, a fact borne out by its later actions (or lack thereof), a failure that ultimately contributed to more than 27 million Covid-19 cases in the United States and close to

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500,000 dead.

To remedy this failure, the Biden administration has undertaken a Herculean effort to vaccinate 100 million Americans by April 30 (the 100th day of the new administration). Standing in the way are a variety of obstacles, some natural, some artificial and some left over from Trump’s inept handling of this health calamity.

Biden administration briefings are markedly different from anything the Trump administration ever did. I don’t leave confused. I haven’t been told to inject bleach or introduce a bright light into my body. Like Raskin’s Senate remarks on Tuesday, the briefings have been free of hyperbole, fiction, anger and cowardice.

On Monday I asked Dr. Anthony Fauci (now Biden’s chief medical advisor), “Is there any data or scientific concerns that this particular virus is mutating into a more virulent strain or a more dangerous strain and that it is more dangerous as it mutates?”

He didn’t flinch. His response was grounded in science—and chilling.

“Right now, we certainly don’t have any data to indicate that it is mutating into a less virulent strain,” Fauci told me. “The initial data that came out from the U.K. about it having a degree of increased virulence, that is still, I think, something—I wouldn’t say that’s questionable, but I think that needs to be confirmed. But thus far, no evidence that it is less virulent.”

The coronavirus remains the single greatest threat to life in America right now—but it’s got neck-and-neck competition from the hell wrought by Donald Trump.

On Tuesday afternoon, as the Biden administration dealt with the very real problem of getting people vaccinated, Donald Trump’s lawyers stood in the Senate—one scene of the January 6 crime—and argued that Trump is a patriot who can’t be prosecuted. The difference between Trump and Biden could not be more stark.

An ex-president who still refuses to admit he lost a fair election sent two lawyers into the Senate to tell the world no one has the power to hold him accountable for the deadly insurrection he instigated. He refuses to accept responsibility. He continues to foment division and antidemocratic discord.

Meanwhile Joe Biden sits in the Oval Office, trying to clean up Trump’s vast mess. The hundreds of thousands dead? Trump doesn’t care. The sick? He doesn’t acknowledge them. The damage to our democratic institutions? Trump

Trump sent two lawyers into the Senate to tell the world no one has the power to hold him accountable for the deadly insurrection he instigated. He refuses to accept responsibility.

welcomes it and always has.

For three weeks it’s been wonderful not to have to deal with a president who sends deranged tweets, who has an angry demeanor, who is stubbornly stupid and who has a complete lack of concern for anyone besides himself.

Watching Representative Raskin in tears as he recounted the January insurrection should reduce us all to tears—not just because of what happened to his daughter, but because of what Donald Trump did to us all that day.

For this country to endure, it can never happen again.

It's Easy to Look Good When the Bar Is So Low

WRITTEN BY BRIAN KAREM

PHOTO BY HUTTERSTOCK, UNSPLASH

Though there's a new administration in the White House, trauma from the Trump years hangs over the press corps—and the country—like a dark cloud



Snow fell gently on the White House grounds.

Inside the West Wing offices, low-level communications staffers were talking about Champ and Major, President Joe Biden’s two German shepherds, who apparently have better access to the White House than most humans.

“They can come and go as they want,” a Secret Service agent told me with a smile. “As long as I don’t have to clean up after them.”

After two weeks in the White House, the Biden administration is settling in and, according to Press Secretary Jen Psaki in a Tuesday briefing, hoping to undo the “immoral” actions of the previous administration.

Me? I’m bringing doggy treats for Champ and Major.

Getting the coronavirus under control is the Biden administration’s top-priority job, but one cannot forget all the other fires Biden must put out, all the craters he must fill after Trump’s four years of digging holes. It’s a giant land reclamation project to salvage the Constitution and give the United States a decent chance of once again living up to its ideals. “I’m not making new law, I’m eliminating bad policy,” Biden told the White House press pool Tuesday evening after signing several executive orders.

He’s got a lot of work ahead of him. The Justice Department is in disarray. Congress is in a shambles. The economy is suffering. Education is hurting. You can’t find a decent (Covid-safe) rock-’n’-roll-playing roadside bar. And QAnon supporters believe (among other insanities) that reptiles from the Andromeda galaxy have infiltrated U.S. leadership.

After Trump’s abysmal four-year romp through the swamp, the Biden administration is claiming the high road. But two weeks in, troubles are emerging. “It’s nice to turn down the temperature and stop lying to us,” a reporter said in the White House basement after Psaki’s Tuesday press briefing. “But they have to do better.”

On Monday Psaki made a reference in her daily briefing to “conservative Twitter,” causing a portion of right-wing Twitter to go nuts. Then on Tuesday Twitter’s progressive side lit up after Psaki gave a prickly response to a question from Politico reporter Anita Kumar.

Yet in bringing back the White House daily briefing, Psaki has so far had a relatively painless experience. Reporters have been so relieved to simply have a daily briefing—and to not be threatened, insulted or called “fake news” or “the enemy of the people”—that they’ve given Psaki an easy time. She also benefits, as her predecessor Kayleigh McEnany did, from dealing with just 14 reporters in the briefing room thanks to Covid precautions, instead of the 75 or more that would be present in normal times. The pandemic has reduced the press presence and given Psaki an enormous home-field advantage.

Joe Lockhart, former press secretary for President Bill Clinton, once explained to me how difficult it can be when several reporters “lock in on” the press secretary during a briefing. Following each other’s line of questioning and drilling down, reporters can expose a topic the press secretary is ill-prepared

to handle.

Psaki has not had that problem, and she’s smarter than McEnany at playing to the crowd. She has been engaging, at least until Tuesday, and the press has been preoccupied with “house-keeping” questions, settling for her tactic of “circling back” to us on difficult issues. Psaki is less abrasive than McEnany (though that’s not saying much; coarse sandpaper is less abrasive than the Trump administration), but cracks are emerging.

On an off-the-record call with White House Correspondents’ Association members, Psaki encouraged reporters to give her a heads-up if they planned to ask something difficult, according to the Daily Beast. “If you’re a reporter with a tough question for the White House press secretary, Joe Biden’s staff wouldn’t mind knowing about it in advance,” Maxwell Tani reported.

That seems innocuous on its face. Reporters often ask questions about complex issues ahead of time so they can get a well-informed answer. There’s nothing wrong with that. And if Psaki

Some in the press see Psaki’s grace period as coming to a close.

wants to know questions ahead of time in order to research the answer, that can be okay too. But if she will allow only questions she has prepared answers to ahead of time, or if she won’t call on journalists because she doesn’t want to address the question she knows is coming, then that’s a problem.

The best questions, or at least those I’ve appreciated the most, are those formulated in real time, either prompted by the press secretary’s answers or by following up on other reporters’ questions. Though reporters come to briefings

prepared with several questions, sometimes we don’t know what the best question will be until we hear what’s going on.

Either way, Psaki said her comments in the Zoom call had been misconstrued. (Probably best in the future if she refrain from commenting on such tricky matters over Zoom; the potential to be misunderstood is just too great.)

“Our goal is to make the daily briefing as useful and informative as possible for both reporters and the public,” a White House spokesperson told the Daily Beast. “Part of meeting that objective means regularly engaging with the reporters who will be in the briefing room to understand how the White House can be most helpful in getting them the information they need. That two-way conversation is an important part of keeping the American people updated about how government is serving them.” Psaki’s deputy press secretary reiterated this statement to me when I asked for an explanation.

Many reporters are willing to take Psaki at face value for now, but grumblings already exist regarding the ultra-restrictive Covid policies for reporters covering the White House. Given Psaki’s spiky response to Kumar and her snarky reply to a Bloomberg reporter’s query about Space Force, some in the press see Psaki’s grace period as coming to a close. On Wednesday Psaki was asked if she would apologize to members of Space Force for her seemingly flippant treatment of the newest branch of the armed services—a definite first for the Biden administration.

“I think the honeymoon is definitely over,” one reporter told me after Tuesday’s briefing. “At least it feels like it. I don’t even know what was said today. We weren’t lied to or attacked, but it’s hard to see what was said in the briefing that was productive. She was snarky.”

Granted, this remains a quality problem to have. To give some perspective, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham recently said on Fox News that if impeachment proceedings continue, they might as well call in the FBI. (Do it. Call in the FBI. Prosecute everyone.)

The press spent the past four years fighting for facts to be heard in an environment where bad fiction, sedition and insurrection were king. There is little doubt that Democrats will get credit from most of us, if not a temporary hall pass, just for not being batshit nuts.

Former president Trump still refuses to admit he’s a former president. In the run-up to his Senate trial, he is arguing he can’t be impeached

The White House press corps is haunted by the former president. We suffer from PTSD from having to cover Trump over the past four years.

because he’s out of office and what he said prior to the Capitol insurrection is protected speech. When he was in office he said he couldn’t be prosecuted because he was in office; now the goalposts have moved, and he says he can’t be prosecuted because he’s out of office.

Joe Biden could sell off the Lincoln Bedroom’s furnishings or let Champ and Major take a dump in the Oval Office and most of the country would give him a pass, thanks to what Trump did as president. That’s a problem. With the bar set so low, many are willing to accept a lot of bad behavior. Little can be as nerve-racking as living under President Trump.

Biden fans are cheering for Psaki on social media—comments include “She’s dynamite” and “What a breath of fresh air—a real briefing.” But not everyone is happy. Questions have arisen about the extent of Psaki’s actual access to the president, though she told me Tuesday afternoon she talks to him “nearly every day.” And while she sticks to the administration’s talking points without lying or having a tantrum like a hysterical toddler—hallmarks of Trump’s last press secretary—that is still a far cry from providing the depth of information the people of the country need.

Somewhere in the White House basement, a fan whirled on Tuesday afternoon. The sound was something like a rusty gate or a coffin opening slowly—perhaps Trump was still around? It’s hard to conceive of a White House in which he isn’t yelling at his chief of staff about the thermostat, or advising Americans to ingest bleach, or screaming at the press, calling us liars, thieves, rogues and enemies of the people.

The White House press corps is haunted by the former president. We suffer from PTSD from having to cover Trump over the past four years. A reprieve from that, in conjunction with the affable nature of the new press secretary, is why the press corps has gone easy on Psaki and the administration in the first two weeks of Biden’s term.

But the trauma of Trump will fade. And if Biden’s communication team doesn’t get better at what they do, they’re in for a rude awakening.

Shouldn't Biden Keep His Promises?

President Biden swore he'd boot any staffer showing disrespectful behavior. But when a deputy press secretary made sexist comments, the administration's first reaction was a wrist-slap

WRITTEN BY BRIAN KAREM

PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK



We cannot continue to be mired in the Trumpian dystopia that we voted out of office.

The Joe Biden administration wants the country to move on following Donald Trump’s acquittal in his second Senate impeachment trial.

I am all for moving forward. But before we do, in the words of Lieutenant Columbo, I have just one more thing. Anyone got a pencil? I need to take notes.

The simple fact that we have to say “second” impeachment trial indicates the quality of the former president. History will not be kind to the man who lost reelection and tried to hold on to his office by inciting an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

That aside, the latest impeachment trial proved a few things beyond a shadow of a doubt: A.) Donald Trump’s time in office is over—and Vice President Mike Pence’s life was almost over. B.) There are some GOP senators who will look great in orange. C.) Trump owns a political party that has zero resemblance to anything remotely Republican.

Still worried that justice wasn’t dispensed to Donald Trump? Take solace in the fact that he will spend the rest of his life tangled in legal proceedings that will keep him from ever being president again—and that the Trump brand is destined for abject, abysmal, all-encompassing failure. His sons won’t follow in his footsteps, nor will his daughter—unless they follow each other to prison.

Though a majority of senators saw Trump for what he is in his second impeachment trial, the supermajority of 67 needed to convict didn’t materialize.

Despite this, the Donald was not exonerated—he was acquitted. The fates have yet to decide his ignominious future.

It matters little. Democratic Representative Jamie Raskin, lead House impeachment manager, effectively eviscerated Trump on the world stage, showing the arrogant charlatan for what he is. Trump knows he lost. The term “loser” will forever be attached to his name, his brand and his dubious accomplishments. He remains the worst we have ever elected. His is a dark soul with dark and foul deeds in his heart. A man who lives only to exploit, divide and conquer. Too stupid and too fearful to be successful, Trump has nevertheless set the table for somebody to pick up where he left off—someone who may be equally dark but smarter.

Trump is a walking subversion of rationality, science, math and common sense. It is in the nation’s best interest to hold him accountable for his seditious actions, reduce his compensation to nothing and hold him in the lowest regard.

But we cannot continue to be mired in the Trumpian dystopia that we voted out of office. The ex-president still takes up

far too much oxygen in the room while there are other pressing issues that deserve serious consideration.

President Joe Biden gets points for keeping his eye on the ball in terms of the pandemic and working hard to overcome the messes Trump left. But Friday showed us Biden has his own problems—especially in his communications office. At press secretary Jen Psaki’s briefing last Friday, CNN’s chief White House correspondent, Kaitlan Collins, picked up where she had left off challenging the Trump administration, now challenging the Biden administration after T.J. Ducklo, Psaki’s deputy secretary, said he would “destroy” a female reporter researching a story on him for Politico’s Playbook. Ducklo also allegedly made several misogynistic comments, which the White House did not deny.

“A deputy of yours has been suspended for a week without pay for comments he made to a female reporter, bullying her after she reached out for requests for comment on a story. Whose idea was the one-week suspension, instead of a potential resignation or firing?” Collins asked Psaki. “And how can you keep this person in a public-facing press-relations role, dealing with female reporters, when he made such sexist comments?”

Psaki responded that she took the allegations seriously and felt a one-week suspension “was a serious punishment.”

But Collins pressed her point. After his suspension, Ducklo would still be working with female reporters. “What are you doing to deal with that part of it?” she asked Psaki.

“It’s completely unacceptable.... We’ve had conversations with [Ducklo] about that. That is why we have also contacted—not long before today, but immediately following their conversation, my colleague Kate Bedingfield reached out to an editor at Playbook to convey our apology,” Psaki responded. “We’ve reached out at every level there to convey our apology and been clear this will never happen again. And it is not going to be tolerated here at the White House.”

Yet she did tolerate it. A week’s suspension is not much of a punishment, and Psaki admitted she hadn’t discussed her decision with Biden before she took action as Ducklo’s supervisor. “It was a decision I made, and with the approval of the chief of staff,” Psaki said.

Make no mistake, the White House did not deny that one of its deputies conducted himself abhorrently when he made misogynistic remarks and threatened to “destroy” a reporter.

Had a deputy press secretary in the Trump White House made such comments, the world would’ve been in a justifiable uproar. The White House Correspondents’ Association, which made statements against the Trump administration several times for its shoddy treatment of reporters, would’ve been the first to defend the journalist. But last Friday the WHCA and its president, Zeke Miller, remained silent. The WHCA has yet to say anything about this fiasco. Miller, who is in the briefing room more than most reporters and often gets the first question during the dog-and-pony shows pretending to be briefings, asked nothing about the incident when he had a chance both last Friday and this Tuesday.

Instead, last Friday Bloomberg’s Josh Wingrove, picking up Collins’s line of questioning, pressed Psaki for answers, pointing out that on Inauguration Day Biden said he would fire “on the spot” any staffer who disrespected their colleagues. “Isn’t this well short of what he pledged?” Wingrove asked.

Psaki responded again that Ducklo’s behavior was not acceptable. The next day, Ducklo resigned his position.

The fact that Ducklo initially received a mild punishment and resigned only after the story became public reveals some interesting things about this White House.

It shows that Biden has delegated authority to those he trusts, and that those he trusts may not necessarily make decisions that are in his best interest. It also draws attention to something Psaki told me last week: She doesn’t necessarily talk with the president every day. Perhaps the Ducklo episode was one instance in which she should have reached out to the president for guidance, since her decision to mete out a short suspension

was in direct conflict with the president’s wishes regarding standards for his staff’s behavior.

No question: Biden is an improvement over Trump. But that’s a low hurdle to clear—most pet owners show more empathy than Donald Trump ever did. That’s not the point. Each administration should be held to the same standard. The Biden administration has stumbled badly in the briefing room and how it deals with the press, although it isn’t as bad as the Trump administration and hopefully never will be. Biden’s team has issued draconian rules limiting press access. It has compromised the WHCA by putting its officers to work as pseudo-bureaucrats deciding which reporters can even enter the White House campus. It declined to condemn Saudi Arabia for the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. And now it had to accept the resignation of a deputy press secretary who made misogynistic comments and threatened to destroy a reporter.

Biden’s press secretary and chief of staff were willing to sacrifice the promise Biden made on the day he took office to fire any staffer who was disrespectful to colleagues. On Tuesday, NBC’s Peter Alexander pressed Psaki about that. “[Ducklo] is no longer employed here, and that speaks for itself,” she responded.

Yes, it does. But so do the circumstances that led to Ducklo’s departure.

The administration’s initial response calls into question whether Psaki actually speaks for the president. The WHCA’s inaction shows how weak it has become—

and how the new administration has manipulated it. Ducklo’s resignation, coming so soon after public disclosure, shows there was no doubt about his bad behavior. It also shows the Biden administration is responsive to public input and willing to correct its mistakes.

And it highlights the need for openness, the need for honesty and the need for less arrogance from the White House moving forward—along with greater acknowledgement of the facts. Not only should the Trump era of lying with impunity be over, but so too should the era of spin-doctoring and obfuscation that preceded Trump and made his ascent possible.

For too many people, U.S. politics has devolved into an acceptable way to show those who disagree with us as much disrespect as possible.

Seeing Trump acquitted drove that point home—as did the actions last week of the current White House communications team.

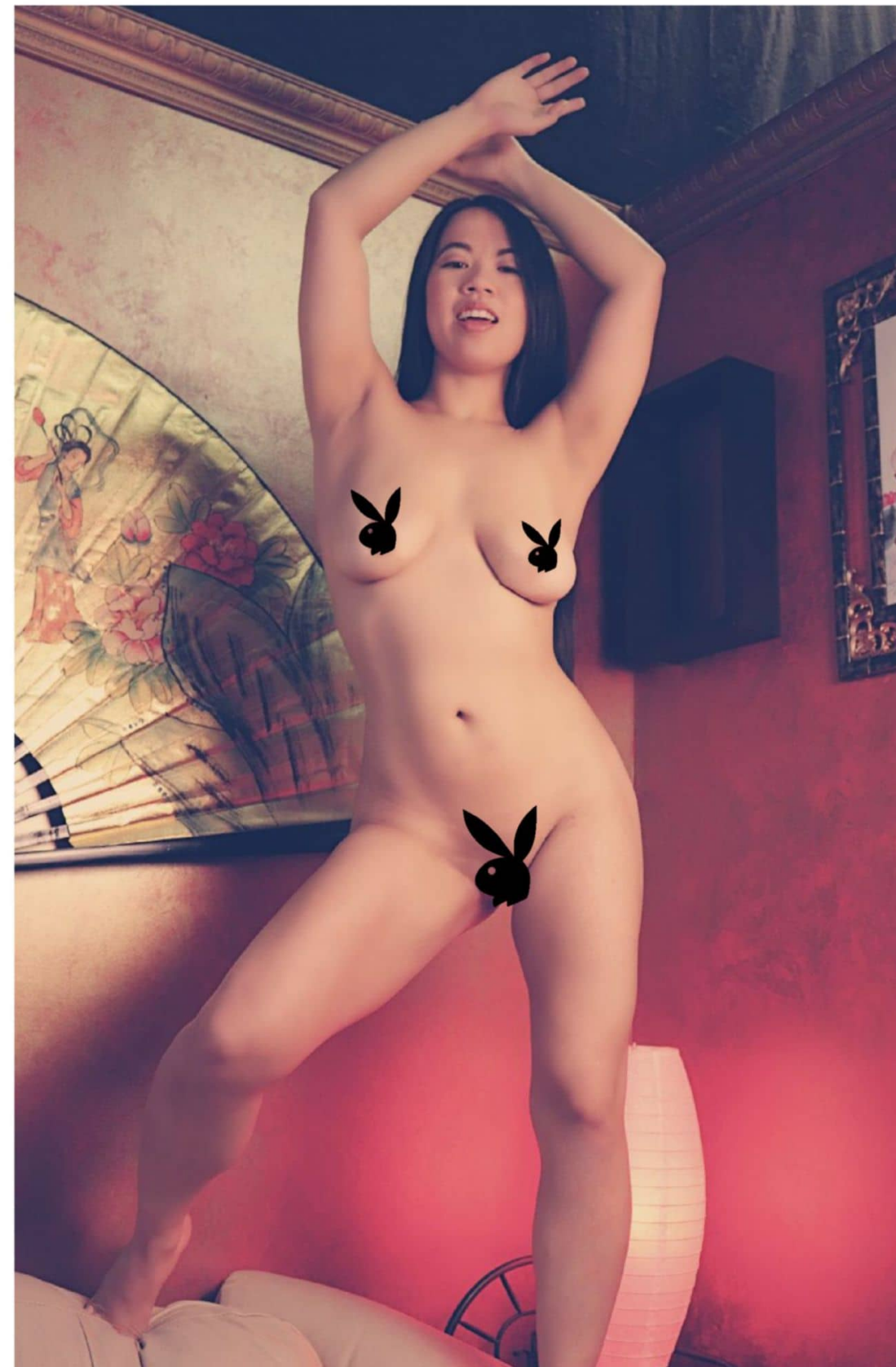
The American public deserves, wants and needs better.



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We're happy to have you feature on Playboy! Can you give us a bit of a background on your career as a model and where it all started? I am so incredibly excited to be featured on Playboy! Thank you so much for having me! I started as a model with a couple of photoshoots for friends here and there, and when I became a showgirl, I started to build material for promotion and posters. Then, through the help of RatNip Productions, I got my first big break with a feature and cover in FHM and it has been a wild, crazy journey since!

Having a full schedule must make it difficult for you to get much alone time, talk to us about the top 3 must-dos to ensure you fit in some well-deserved downtime? Yes! It's very difficult but if you don't fill your teacup first, you can't share your tea with others. I consider downtime as time for myself, but I work hard and play harder, so my downtime isn't really conventional. I get my workout done first thing in the morning to kickstart everything and keep my focus sharp throughout the day. Exercise takes time out of your day, but it seriously adds more time to your day than it takes out because you do everything else faster. I'll schedule my fun time in advance to make sure I don't overwork and get in a rut so that might look like several days of go go go and at the end I know I have a massage, a party, and a quiet night with friends over food or board games to look forward to. And lastly, I take myself out on a date about once a month, just a quiet day getting organized, having time to think and process, making myself a really nice meal, and doing a solo activity I've been looking forward to.

What does it mean for you to be seen as a strong, intelligent, ambitious woman? That's a really interesting question. Earlier in my career, it meant a lot to me to be seen that way because of all the hard work I was putting into what I love to try to build things into something bigger, and those thoughts and feelings made sense for where I was at the time. Nowadays it really doesn't mean anything at all because I don't need to be seen that way to know that I am strong, intelligent, and ambitious. I'd rather take all that energy and channel it into the next project.

What are some of the biggest misconceptions people have about what you do? I think there are two major misconceptions: what I do and my reason why. I'm a creator and entertainer. My goal is no different than being an actress or musician. I want to make you feel something because I love to perform. People want to reduce what I do to just sex appeal because it's easier to judge from a screen than to go out and give a real show a chance. They want to cheapen what I do to just money or attention because it's easier than admitting that there's real value to feelings and having someone help you access them. There's sensuality and excitement in everything - from a moment that makes you laugh and catches you off guard to the anticipation of what's coming next. Creating and building that excitement is a real skill.

What does freedom of self-expression mean to you? It's the best feeling in the world. The more that you purposely own what you put out on stage, the more you own everything you chose not to put out on stage and choose to do for yourself. People confuse free-

dom of self-expression with freedom from consequences or freedom from reality. I'm free to put out there whatever I want, and people can love it or hate it, regardless of whether what they loved or hate about it was something within my control, but that doesn't change how I feel about the choices I've made and that's really powerful.

We absolutely love your Instagram, your content is very dynamic, inspirational, and downright sexy, could you perhaps tell us what your personal experience as an influencer has been like? Maybe this is my work ethic shining through or something, haha, but I have a lot of women tell me that I've inspired them to take a class and start dancing and I have a lot of men tell me that I've inspired them to get in shape. Those are hands down some of the most rewarding moments.

3 things that you can't go a day without. I'm a huge musicophile so there is not a single day I go without my Spotify account. I also absolutely have to get some sort of physical activity in to keep my head clear because I have so many things going on all the time. And this is kind of lame, but hydration is important! I use glass water bottles only.

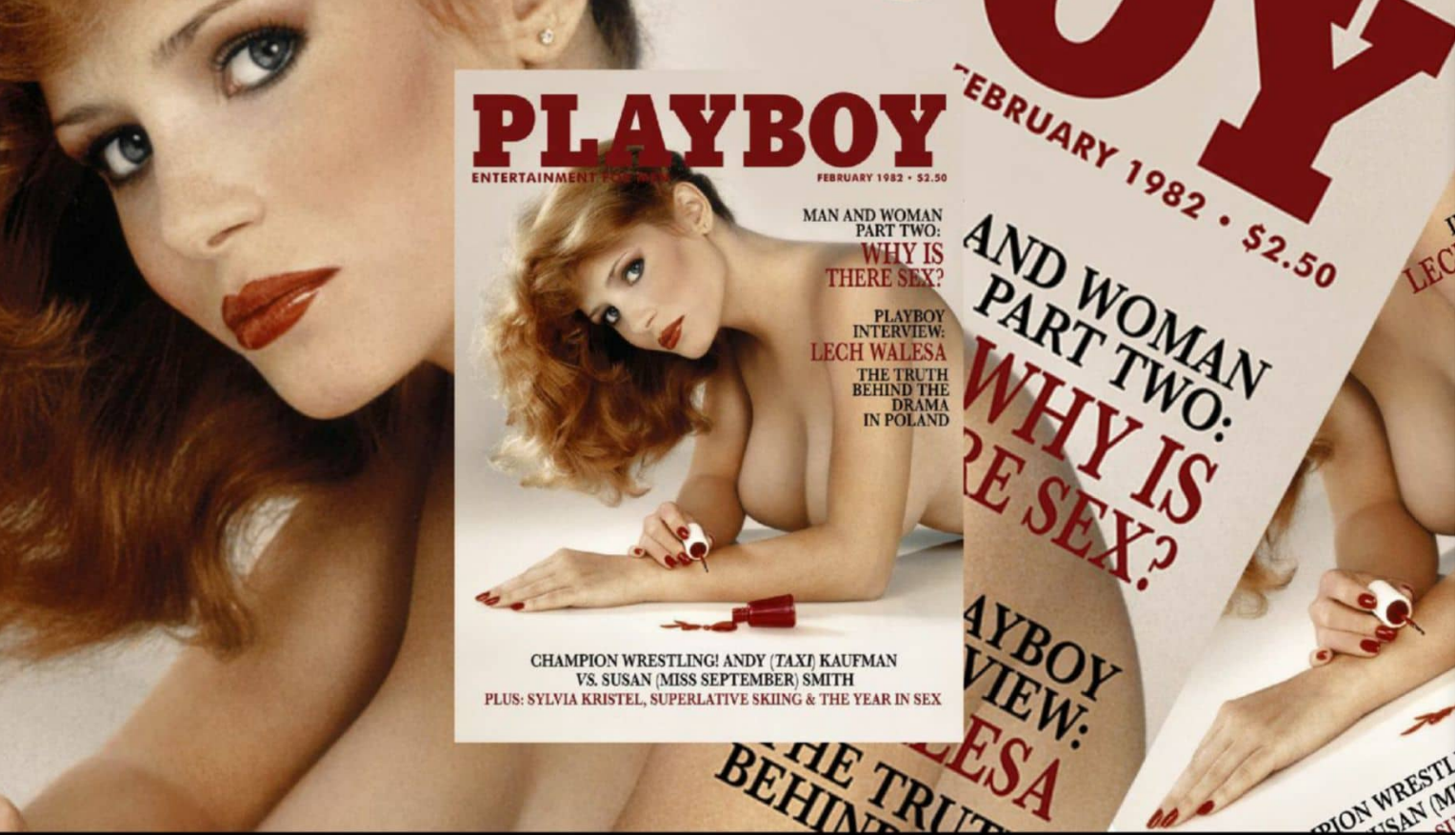
What about those crazy DMs you must receive! Care to share a few funny stories regarding those? Haha, to be really honest they've been quite tame. Maybe they don't want to offend or scare off the Asian girl but that's plenty fine by me.

Now we're sure you experience a lot of male attention on and offline, any advice you would like to give to men out there who are hoping to catch your eye the right way? What's really rare to see nowadays is someone who means what they say and puts in the work to make it happen. I find that kind of drive and discipline incredibly attractive if they're humble about where they're at and appreciative of what they have. I blame my martial arts background, but honestly, that's the kind of person you would have to be to keep up with everything I want out of life.

What is the absolute worst thing a man can do to completely put you off? It's a tie between lying and having an ego.

That said, what advice would you have to give to all women out there when it comes to love and relationships. Love yourself enough to be honest with yourself about what you want and honor and respect yourself by putting the work in to get there. That's the only thing you can control, and even if the right person doesn't come by yet, you still have a great relationship with the most important person - yourself.

Thank you so much for sitting down with us and letting us get to know you! Any last words for our readers out there? Thank you again for this amazing opportunity! I'm really honored to be featured and be a part of the Playboy legacy of showcasing women that unapologetically be everything they want to be. Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way, and I'm really excited about what's next on the journey!



Behind the Cover: February 1982

A look inside PLAYBOY's February 1982 issue

WRITTEN BY
LIZ SUMAN

"Violets are blue and roses are red, but the best colors lie in the pages ahead."

In February 1982, Olivia Newton-John ruled the airwaves, the San Francisco 49ers were the team to beat and the Commodore 64 computer was the new kid on the block. Between the covers of our February 1982 edition, PLAYBOY readers discovered a cheerleading Playmate, a political revolutionary, intergender wrestling and intellectual debates about sex and the sexes.

February 1982 wasn't the first time PLAYBOY readers met cover star Kimberly McArthur. The charming southerner, Dallas Cowboys cheerleader finalist and aspiring actor made her sizzling PLAYBOY debut the previous month as the magazine's January 1982 Playmate before going on to grace our cover.

"It's something I've been doing all my life," McArthur told PLAYBOY of her goal to become a professional entertainer. "If someone I know is really down, I'll launch into a brogue, do a whole skit. You should see me do a five-minute version of The Wizard of Oz. I play all the parts."

McArthur's simple yet sexy red-and-white cover was a fitting visual introduction to a February issue that was sprinkled with nods to Valentine's Day, without hitting readers over the head with a Hallmark-size hammer. The choice was a conscious one, cheekily acknowledged by editors in the beginning of the issue: "Violets are blue and roses are red, but the best colors lie in the pages ahead."

That's not to say there weren't a few romance-centric pieces in the table of contents. They included: Stolen Sweets,

a collection of illustrations by British cartoonist Francis "Smilby" Smith; At Long Last, Lover, a pictorial featuring Sylvia Kristel, the prolific Dutch actress best known as the lead in the French erotic film series Emmanuelle; and Modern Screen Romance, a tech story with an opening spread that featured Back to the Future-era electronics surrounding a bare derriere.

Non-V-Day centerpieces included Foxy Lady, a pictorial starring February 1982 Playmate Anne Marie Fox and a Playboy Interview featuring Polish Solidarity labor leader (and future Polish president) Lech Walesa, which was conducted in Poland, in Polish. The subject of that issue's installment of the recurring franchise 20 Questions was the soulful-eyed, brunette bombshell Karen Allen, Harrison Ford's counterpart in Steven Spielberg's 1981 box office sensation Raiders of the Lost Ark.

Other standouts: We Wuz Robbed!, a hybrid pictorial-sports story that spotlighted a match between September 1981 Playmate Susan Smith and "Intergender Wrestling Champion of the World" Andy Kaufman. The piece was reported by longtime contributing editor John Blumenthal, who came to PLAYBOY

in the early 1970s by way of Esquire—and a referral from none other than literary and cinematic giant Nora Ephron.

For the reader whose athletic tastes veered toward more time-tested indoor/outdoor sports, the issue also ran an excerpt from Playboy's Guide to Ultimate Skiing, courtesy of Playboy Press, as well as the 1982 edition of PLAYBOY's long-standing annual franchise, The Year in Sex. And for the working man of the 1980s, a Playboy Advisor column weighed in on sex manuals and men's suits.

This issue also included the second installment of the mag's buzzworthy Man and Woman series, in which filmmaker Jo Durden-Smith and "new science" journalist Diane deSimone discussed The Sexual Deal: A Story of Civilization.

Believe it or not, that's not all 1982 had to offer. Read on to enjoy a visual tour of some of our favorite vintage February moments, including previously unpublished outtakes that didn't make it to the printer in 1982.

Southern Star



Previously unpublished outtakes from the pictorial that led to the issue's cover. Subtle differences from the published version include shots without the nail polish that housed the issue's hidden Rabbit Head.

Hidden Hare

Fun fact: Nearly every cover of PLAYBOY features a concealed image of our ubiquitous bow-tied mascot—and February 1982 was no exception. That issue's hidden hare? The ruby-red Rabbit Head reflected in McArthur's nail polish.



Foxy Lady

Twinkle toes, with a twist. A selection of outtakes from February 1982 Playmate Anne Marie Fox's fitness-inspired pictorial, which was aptly titled Foxy Lady. When Playboy reconnected with Fox in 2019, she cited this photoshoot as the experience that jump-started her future career as a photographer. "Although I didn't realize it at the time, my first experience in front of the camera catalyzed what would become my passion for working behind it," she said.

After PLAYBOY, Fox graduated from Columbia University and apprenticed with photography legends Brigitte Lacombe and Nan Goldin. A few years later, she was tapped as the set photographer for Kenneth Branagh's Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. The specific assignment? "Capture the daily intensive prosthetics transformation of the lead actor, Robert De Niro."



Hello, Lover

Scenes from At Long Last, Lover, a pictorial starring Sylvia Kristel as Lady Constance Chatterley in the first film adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's scandalous 1927 novel, Lady Chatterley's Lover. Although Kristel's breakout role was years earlier in the 1974 French film Emmanuelle, her turn as "the love-starved wife of an impotent nobleman" marked her first major cinematic role. And acting chops weren't the Dutch star's only impressive skill: Kristel had a reported I.Q. of 164 and was fluent in five languages



Illos From the Issue

Like many artists who have appeared in PLAYBOY's pages, John Kurtz, the mastermind behind the opening visuals for Robert Silverberg's February 1982 fiction piece, Gianni, hailed from PLAYBOY's birthplace: Chicago. Kurtz's work also appeared in PLAYBOY's sister publication, Oui magazine.



In addition to playing a defining role in the pop art canon, Patrick Nagel was a prolific contributor to PLAYBOY's pages. Case in point: The triptych above spotlights three Nagel contributions to the February 1982 issue alone, featured in Playboy After Hours, Playboy Forum and the Playboy Advisor, respectively.

Service With Style

Although grooming trends in pictorials are a consistently reliable way to pinpoint the decade in which any given issue of PLAYBOY was published, readers in search of additional context clues that this particular issue was published in the 1980s need look no further than the subtitle of the February 1982 tech story Modern Screen Romance, which read: "Video's sexy second generation of cassette recorders, disc players, cameras and stereo TVs is a seductive sequel that's a sure tune-on."

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